

THE TIMES

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Manager 22K

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Israeli officer overpowers gunman who injured six Arabs in burst of automatic fire

Market place shooting fails to halt talks

FROM ROSS DUNN IN HEBRON, WEST BANK

TALKS on the future of Hebron reopened last night despite an attack by an Israeli soldier in which he wounded six Arabs in an attempted New Years Day massacre. He had wanted to stop the town's transfer to Palestinian self rule.

The shooting in Hebron's open air Arab market came as Israeli troops were preparing to withdraw from four-fifths of the town.

Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, and Yassir Arafat, the Palestinian Authority President, were quick to denounce the shooting. Talks between Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat had been expected to take place before the shooting, but Dennis Ross, the American mediator, said that they would take place "no later than Thursday". Israeli-Palestinian talks resumed at the level of officials last night.

The Israeli security forces responded to the incident by clamping a curfew on most parts of Hebron. They quickly arrested Noam Friedman, 19, a soldier, who railed Palestinian shopkeepers and their customers with gunfire from his M16 assault rifle.

The gunman shot dead "Abraham bought the Cave of the Patriarchs for 400 shekels of silver — no one will return it" as he was put into a police van after the attack. The Cave of the Patriarchs is the burial place of Abraham and Sarah which is sacred to Muslims and Jews. The young soldier also told the police last night

that he had a history of mental problems.

Israeli military officials were quick to point out that the soldier was not stationed in Hebron but was from Ma'ale Adumim, a Jewish settlement near Jerusalem.

The hero of the day was an Israeli army officer, Lieutenant Avi Buskila, who disarmed the would-be killer.

Friedman was trying to reload his weapon when he was knocked down by Lieutenant Buskila, who said that he saw the man open fire and then try to run into the market. "I started running also and knocked him to the ground," he said. "It all took only about ten seconds."

During his interrogation by the police yesterday, Friedman repeated the slogan of Jewish settlers: "Hebron was and always will be."

Mr Netanyahu expressed "shock and revulsion" at the incident and promised that it would not stop the peace talks with the Palestinians. "We are committed to the speedy resolution of this agreement, properly concluded, and no crime will stand in our way of doing so," he said.

He added that now it was even more urgent that the Hebron accord should be completed. "The agreement we have been labouring on for months has been designed to prevent precisely such acts of violence," he said. "I have said repeatedly that undue delay in its conclusion and its implementation creates a twilight period of uncertainty and in-

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Oxbridge alumni hope gifts will secure places for children

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR



OXBRIDGE colleges are coming under increasing pressure to admit the children of former students, some of whom expect a university place for their offspring in return for much-needed donations.

Financial difficulties have forced the colleges to step up fundraising efforts in recent years, with direct-mail and telephone approaches to alumni. But the process has brought to the surface growing resentment among donors whose children are rejected.

Entry to both the ancient universities has become increasingly competitive, squeezing out families

which have sent generations of children to the same college. Two-thirds of entrants have the maximum A-level score and the proportion of students from independent schools has fallen.

As the colleges prepared to interview this year's candidates, admissions tutors insisted that there was no question of places being "sold". But some admitted that disgruntled alumni were applying pressure to secure preferential treatment for their children.

Michael Beloff, the President of Trinity College, Oxford, since last August, said he had already encountered old members who "complain that there is no guaranteed place for their offspring". But selection on

other than purely academic grounds would endanger Oxford's international reputation.

Susan Stobbs, who chairs Cambridge's admissions forum, said the university had drawn up new guidelines for admissions tutors to ensure that competition was fair and open. Colleges were pleased to admit students with familiar names, but only on merit.

Ms Stobbs said: "I have a feeling that there is probably more open discussion in colleges about issues to do with admissions because they are all running huge development campaigns. Suddenly they have been having a lot more contact with alumni and they have been getting some letters from people saying they

are not giving money because their son hasn't got in."

The issue came to a head at Cambridge when minutes of a meeting of science tutors at Pembroke College included a proposal for parental links to be taken into account if candidates could not be separated academically. Dr Stephen Monsell, who wrote the minute, said such an approach "in fact reflected our existing, but informal, bias, though we do not advertise it".

Although the meeting had no power to make policy and rejected a further proposal to check applicants' names against lists of former members, the discussion aroused fears that donors might exert improper influence in the selection

process. Forty-three of the 68 Oxbridge colleges now have full-time

processes, and the colleges are

now in the hands of the academics, who wanted the best.

Mr Drucker said some major donors to Oxford had seen their children's applications rejected subsequently. "They did not withdraw their gifts and they could not accuse us of breaking our word, but they clearly felt let down."

In earlier times, neither of the ancient universities hesitated to reserve places for donors' families. At Oxford, All Souls regularly reserved for "Founder's Kin", and Eton had a dozen scholarships to King's College each year because both were founded by Henry VI.

Labour's women want to bring in Commons sense

BY JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

TESS KINGHAM, a young working mother with a media job, is typical of the new female Labour candidate.

The 33-year-old has been an active party member since 1982 but decided to stand for Parliament so that she can join a growing band of women MPs keen to change male-dominated Westminster.

Mrs Kingham and many of her fellow women candidates tend to identify themselves with Tony Blair's new Labour, in marked contrast to some of the older male MPs who make up much of the opposition backbenchers.

While they will undoubtedly make a priority of "female" issues such as education and health, few have grand visions of political change. They instead want a woman's perspective to be brought to bear on Parliament and government in general, together with a more commonsense and consensual approach to politics.

Mrs Kingham has the heavy burden of trying to overturn a Tory majority of

6,069 in Gloucester. The seat is known as Labour's Basildon because, if it falls on election night, Labour will have effectively secured a Commons majority of one.

Mrs Kingham, who has an 18-month-old daughter, Rosa, with her husband Mark, was selected for the seat in September 1995 without the aid of a women-only shortlist. She has worked as a press and media adviser for several overseas charities for the past twelve years and is currently working for War on Want.

She had to think long and hard about the impact her candidacy would have on her family. "Parliament is very much geared to men with other jobs who do their politicking in the evening," she said. "It is not geared to anybody who has any kind of a family life."

She said that women have a better understanding of what people care about, especially on education and the health service. "Women are more aware of the concerns of the people simply because we

have families. We are the ones who take children to school, take them to the doctors. That means we have more of a grip on reality."

Melanie Johnson, 41, who is standing in Welwyn & Hatfield, has been an Ofsted schools inspector for the past four years after being an NHS manager. She is also a magistrate. She was selected by a women-only shortlist in March 1995 before the policy was banned and has a good chance of wiping out the 8,468 majority of the sitting Conservative MP, David Evans.

A classics and philosophy graduate of University College London, and Cambridge, Miss Johnson joined the Labour Party in 1978. She stood as a candidate for Cambridge in the 1992 Euro elections, and has been a Cambridgeshire county councillor for 16 years.

Miss Johnson, who has three children with William, her partner of 18 years, said that the more women in Parliament, the better. "A more mixed environment will have a civilising effect."

Although she said women would of course have different opinions, there would be a common approach. "There would be a different style of working, more geared to results than noise-making. Women would be more likely to use common sense and try and build a consensus."

Jacqui Smith, 34, was selected from a women-only shortlist in May 1995 as Labour's candidate for the new seat of Redditch in the West Midlands. With a national Tory majority of 3,287, the seat is a key winnable target for Labour.

Married to Richard, a civil engineer, and with a three-year-old son, James, Mrs Smith studied politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford University after attending a comprehensive school in Malvern.

After a short stint working as a researcher for the Labour MP Terry Davis, she became a teacher and is at present head of economics and business studies at Haybridge High School in Hagley, Worcestershire. Although she is a member of the National Union of Teachers, she has never worked for a union. She has been on Redditch Borough Council for six years.

Mrs Smith said: "What is important is that a woman's perspective is put to all our policies."

Preparings to shift its stance caused a dispute between Mr Blunkett and Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, over the scheme's worth. Mrs Shephard sees the latest set of league tables as a valuable weapon in improving standards in primary schools. She believes that the Tories could benefit politically from the two parties' difference in strategy.

Mr Blunkett said yesterday that he thought the £2 million cost of implementing the tables could be put to better use in improving schools. "I am interested in improving the standard of education in the neighbourhood schools to which 98 per cent of children go. We would need to be persuaded by parents that information on how other schools many miles away are doing would be of value to them — or that the cost could not be better spent helping their school in a more direct way."

Mrs Shephard said that the tables would show which education authorities had the best record. "Just as other publicly funded services have to be accountable, so should schools."

She said that Labour "has recently tried to mask the appalling record of Labour education authorities by mouthing support for standards in schools. But once again, David Blunkett has let the cat out of the bag, making it clear Labour would deny parents wider information about primary school performance."

Labour has said it would retain secondary school tables, which have been published for five years, but — like the Government — aims to add more information about the "value added" by schools to children's performance. For 11-year-olds, Labour is committed to telling parents about only their own children's performance in English, mathematics and science.



Melanie Johnson, left, is standing in Welwyn & Hatfield while Tess Kingham is hoping to take Gloucester



Links with trades unions cut in list of Blair candidates



Anderson: delighted at gains of women

Continued from page 1. Cluded in the study, 242 are sitting MPs who are likely to return to Parliament.

However, the study provides the first detailed profile of 152 new candidates who are likely to enter Parliament for the first time in 1997. They are revealed to be dramatically different in character and background to their experienced counterparts. Most strikingly, a third are women. Few come from the unions — only 11 have worked as union officials or researchers. This compares with 47 sitting MPs who once had union jobs.

Only 60 of the new candidates are

even members of a union, compared to 157 sitting MPs. At the same time, only three of the new candidates are former manual workers: two steel workers and a fitter.

Twenty-one of the new candidates have worked either as national Labour party officials or as MPs' research assistants. 13 come from the media, 40 were educated at independent fee-paying schools, and 23 were educated at either Oxford or Cambridge Universities.

But by far the most common experience is in local government — a massive 109 of the new candidates are or have been councillors. Including the sitting MPs, the new Labour

party will have a total of 256 former councillors on its backbenches.

The findings on women will be seen as proof that Labour's controversial "women-only shortlists" policy was effective in securing safe seats for women before it was outlawed by an industrial tribunal last January. Under the policy, Labour aimed to fill half of its winnable and vacant seats with women candidates.

Janet Anderson, the Shadow Minister for Women, said: "I am delighted. It vindicates what we have done to make sure that women are in winnable seats. She added that many constituencies which had been prevented from using women-only

shortlists had nevertheless gone on to select women anyway.

Mr Blair has yet to attract that many businessmen. Only 19 have worked as directors in the private sector and only 24 as managers, most of whom are MPs already. Some 26 have worked as managers in the voluntary sector and 15 as managers in the health service. However, the party will include for the first time one fireman and one taxi driver.

Of the likely MPs, 265 are married, of whom 147 have children. Thirty-three are divorced and have not remarried, and five are separated. The average age of the sitting MPs is 52, while for the new

candidates it is 43.

In replies to a questionnaire, most MPs and candidates understandably failed to list their more bizarre pastimes in the study, but some were disarmingly frank. Michael Meacher, the former Labour minister, reveals that he practices cosmology. Jim Cousins, MP for Newcastle-upon-Tyne Central, likes "composting". Barbara Follett, the candidate for Stevenage and former style guru, plays Scrabble on her days off. Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary, enjoys cooking puddings; while Andrew Dismore, 42, a candidate for Hendon, likes studying "modern Greek history".

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Straw to bide time on Lords reforms

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR refused to commit itself yesterday to immediate reform of the House of Lords but remained committed to the right to create hundreds of peers to overcome any Tory opposition to its

plan. Several of those targeted by Labour to try to counter the impact of big business supporting John Major were astonished to have been lined up as possible recruits.

Sir Clive Thompson, group chief executive of Renold Initial, who was on the confidential list, was particularly bemused. He is a lifelong Conservative Party member.

Professor Alan Watson, chairman of the public affairs company Burston-Marsteller (Europa), is a Liberal Democrat far from endorsing Tony Blair, he will be assisting Paddy Ashdown's election campaign.

Sir Clive made clear that some hereditary peers would escape Labour's proposals to abolish their right to sit and vote in the House of Lords. He cited Viscount Whitelaw, the former Tory Home Secretary, as an example of a first-generation hereditary peer who would be entitled to continue in the Lords.

He said that it had always been acknowledged that there were some hereditary peers who — but for the fact that they were hereditary — would be there in their own right as life peers.

Although he said that reform would be a high priority of an incoming Labour government, he refused to offer a precise timetable. And he said that the possibility of creating 700 Labour peers to get their legislation through "remained in the background".

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A NEW candidate has emerged as a frontrunner to succeed Sir Nicholas Scott as MP for Kensington and Chelsea, one of the safest Tory seats in the country. Gerald Bowden, who held the Tory marginal of Dulwich from 1983 until he was defeated in 1992, has entered the selection contest.

Nominations close at 5pm for the seat which, with a notional majority of 21,000, was regarded as a job for life until Sir Nicholas ended up face down in a gutter at the Conservative Party conference in October.

Mr Bowden, 61, has impeccable local credentials. He is a member of the Chelsea Arts Club, as are many members of the association. His age, far from being a hindrance, would be regarded as an asset in the association, which was badly split by the defection of Sir Nicholas.

Few of the 4,000 members would

expect, or probably want, him to serve more than one term, by which time a younger, more ambitious, candidate would be available to fight the seat. There remains strong support for the candidacy of Sir John Wheeler, 56, the Northern Ireland Minister, whose London seat is disappearing in boundary changes. A clutch of younger frontrunners include Martin Howe, the Euro-sceptic barrister, a nephew of Lord Howe of Aberavon.

Edward Bickham, a former political adviser to Douglas Hurd, is the leading young Turk in the pack.

Jonathan Hill, a former political secretary to John Major, is also thought to have expressed an interest. The leading women contenders are Sarah Whitehouse, a lawyer, who was runner-up to take over from Sir Patrick Mayhew in Tunbridge Wells. Joan Hancham, leader of Kensington and Chelsea council, has the support of Tory council colleagues. The outsider on the list of applicants is Alan Clark, the former Defence Minister who stood down at the last election and has made little secret of the fact he has regretted it ever since.

Blair's secret cheerleaders turn out to be wearing the wrong colours

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A SECRET plan by a Labour research body to recruit captains of industry to act as cheerleaders for Tony Blair in the run-up to the election has come unstuck.

Several of those targeted by Labour to try to counter the impact of big business supporting John Major were astonished to have been lined up as possible recruits.

Sir Clive Thompson, group chief executive of Renold Initial, who was on the confidential list, was particularly bemused. He is a lifelong Conservative Party member.

Professor Alan Watson, chairman of the public affairs company Burston-Marsteller (Europa), is a Liberal Democrat far from endorsing Tony Blair, he will be assisting Paddy Ashdown's election campaign.

The Lawson memo, a copy of which has been passed to The Times, said that they had to push hard for business endorsements on tactical issues such as the minimum wage and Europe. "A realistic goal is to neutralise business influence on the election outcome. The means to achieve this could be a third party,"

demands in Labour policy discussions. He detailed his proposals in a memorandum to Peter Mandelson, who is in charge of Labour's general election campaign.

Mr Lawson, a leading figure in the Labour co-ordinating committee, even suggested the message of the group. He wrote: "Both parties have many good policies for business. We will work equally well with whoever wins the next election. We will advise and comment on all the parties' policies but we will not publicly endorse either party."

Professor Watson said: "I am very surprised to be on this list. Maybe the Labour Party has not realised but I am a long-standing member of the Liberal Democrats. Not only will I be helping with their general election campaign but have been a parliamentary candidate in the past. I am unlikely, therefore, to want to help Tony Blair."

Martin Broughton, group chief executive of BAT Industries, was also suitably unimpressed after being told that he was on the list. A spokesman for Mr Broughton said: "No, thank you."

Mr Broughton, a former political adviser to Douglas Hurd, is the leading young Turk in the pack.

Jonathan Hill, a former political

adviser to John Major, is also

thought to have expressed an interest.

The leading women contenders are

Sarah Whitehouse, a lawyer, who was runner-up to take over from Sir

New Year party gatecrashers axe teenager in head

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A TEENAGER was struck on the head with an axe by gatecrashers who forced their way into a New Year's Eve party at a friend's house. Detectives launched an attempted murder inquiry yesterday as Anthony Brickwood, 18, lay in a neurosurgical unit with his parents at his bedside.

He has a 4in deep wound at the back of his head and a fractured skull. It is believed that he ducked to avoid a blow which was aimed at his face. Police said that the party, on a naval housing estate in Cosham, Hampshire, was attended by a large number of juveniles, with no adults present to supervise.

Mr Brickwood had been celebrating with his parents earlier in the evening. They had seen him lying in hospital, where he recovered consciousness long enough to say "Hello, Dad". His family were told that the location of the injury would make immediate surgery too dangerous.

His father, Paul Brickwood, 38, said: "He was with us earlier in the evening and with a group of friends we know. Later they all went on to a party at one of their homes. Anthony was enjoying himself when a group of gatecrashers tried to barge their way in."

"He was just called to the door to help out when one of them pulled out an axe and swung it at Anthony's face. Thank God he ducked and it

Anthony Brickwood: wound is 4ins deep

caught the back of his head."

An ambulance crew found him on the floor of the house and took him to the Queen Alexandra Hospital at Cosham. He was later transferred to Southampton General Hospital.

The doctors have told us that Anthony has a fractured skull and a 4in-deep gash just above his hairline on the back of his neck," said his father.

The doctors said they will not operate as it is too dangerous. He became conscious for a short while and recognised me. He said "Hello Dad". We are just hoping and praying that he will be all right."

The injured teenager's mother, Deborah, 36, added: "The doctors have said they won't be operating on him for

24 hours as there is a fragile vein running through the injured area, which means that any attempt to operate could be life-threatening. He's drifting in and out of consciousness."

"At the moment, all I want to do is be with my son. He has a little sister, Elizabeth, who is only ten, and she's absolutely devastated. Anthony had been so happy. He started work as a car paint-sprayer only a few weeks ago, and was really enjoying it."

Police recovered a hand axe from the scene of the attack. Inspector Barry Jakeman, of Hampshire police, said: "The party was attended by a huge amount of juveniles. The fight started just after midnight."

"It is evident that there was a lot of drink at the party, and no adults present to supervise."

"As a result, it got out of hand and a young man suffered very serious head injuries. This was a very serious crime. What started out as an innocent party has turned into an attempted murder inquiry."

Last night four youths were helping police with inquiries. □ Two brothers aged 13 and 14 were remanded into care yesterday by magistrates at North Shields, Tyne and Wear, accused of robbery and wounding a bus driver with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. Their alleged victim, Mumtaz Hashmi, 60, suffered serious head injuries.

The Prince of Wales and Prince Harry shared their chair-lift on Mount Gotschna near Klosters yesterday with Santa Palmer-Tomkinson, 26, left, and her sister Tara, 25, a part-time model and gossip columnist. The Palmer-Tomkinsons and their parents, Charles and Patti, were among those with whom the Prince saw in the new year at

a private dinner party at the 11-room Hotel Waserhof. Also present were Mark Bolland, the Prince's new adviser and former director of the Press Complaints Commission, and Tiggy Legge-Bourke, the assistant who often accompanies the young princes. A

group out celebrating gathered under the Prince's balcony and sang their seasonal good wishes. Afterwards the royal party went to the mountain-top holiday home of a Canadian family where as midnight struck they watched a fireworks display against

the backdrop of the Alps. The Prince and his 12-year-old son skied on Gotschna above Klosters yesterday. Prince Harry wore bright orange ski boots and a baseball cap while his father stuck to his usual understated style in a maroon wool hat and dark

blue ski suit. Prince William has not joined the skiing trip, preferring to extend his Christmas holiday at Sandringham. His reluctance to join his father is said partly to stem from his dislike of the continental paparazzi who are present in large numbers and will be following every step of the royal party during the next week.



Royal party heads for the slopes

Newlyweds refuse to let IRA van bomb spoil wedding day reception

By NICHOLAS WATKIN, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A TEENAGER who collapsed and died on the dance floor at a New Year's Eve "rave" party may have taken the drug Ecstasy.

Bilal Hussain Bhayat, 18, from Aston, Birmingham, collapsed just after 1am among 5,000 revellers at the Cardiff International Arena. As they continued to dance unaware of the tragedy, Mr Bhayat was given first aid by St John Ambulance volunteers and taken to Cardiff Royal Infirmary by paramedics. He was pronounced dead on arrival.

Last night, South Wales police said he was in possession of an unknown tablet just before his death. They said that Ecstasy was being offered for sale at the event.

Mr Bhayat had been at the £27.50 ticket event for two hours. He had travelled to the arena, which has not hosted a rave before, with his older brother and three other teenagers. A post-mortem examination carried out by a Home Office pathologist failed to establish the exact cause of death, and the results of toxicology tests for drugs may not be known for three days.

However, police believe Mr Bhayat's death was drug-related. Detective Constable Tony Hinchey said: "We suspect the death is drug-related. We are interviewing the boy's brother and friends who accompanied him to the rave."

Police are also examining a possible link with contaminated amphetamines being offered at the rave. Drugs squad officers are concerned that a contaminated batch of the drug Speed could be circulating in South Wales.

It is the first time a rave has been held at the arena, usually a venue for touring artists. The local authority granted a late licence until 2am with revellers being allowed to dance for another four hours.



Karen and Sam Thompson moved to church hall

Cycling reveller dies in frozen pond

By STEWART TENDERLICK, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A NEW-YEAR reveller is believed to have fallen off his bicycle on his way home and died after staggering into the icy waters of a pond. People who heard his cries thought he was just a merry drunk. At first, police were puzzled about the identity of the man, even though he had a distinctive tattoo on his chest. He read: "Dirty deeds done dirt cheap." They later identified him.

The 25-year-old, who has not yet been named, is believed to be unemployed and is the father of a six-year-old boy. He lived near Normanton, west Yorkshire, and was found at the edge of Pylon Pond in the town.

The body was discovered by David Dunbar, 61, as he walked his dog. He noticed cycle tracks and marks and then

saw an apparently new mountain bike lying in the snow beside the track on a bank eight feet above the water.

Mr Dunbar said: "It looked to me as if this poor bloke has fallen off his bike twice, perhaps he had been celebrating the new year. The second time he had fallen down the bank towards the water. Then, in his confusion, as he tried to get out, he had ended up in the water, which was frozen over."

Yesterday a group of travellers living in caravans a quarter of a mile from the pond said they had heard the sounds of a man shouting. One man said: "At first I thought it was the dogs, but then I realised it was a man shouting. It didn't sound like he was in trouble. It went on for about 15 minutes. We just thought it was a new-year drunk."

Mr Connolly said: "It's very shocking. My wife was obviously very upset. It's really the kind of welcome we would have wished for."

Man held over pensioner's murder

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A 25-YEAR-OLD man was arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of a 90-year-old man on New Year's Eve.

Wilf Mann, a retired cobbler who lived alone after the death of his wife five years ago, was tied up with cord and beaten about the head before he was strangled at his home in Ushaw Moor, Co Durham.

He was found dead on his living room floor by a council care worker and a neighbour who had called at his home on Tuesday morning. Police believe Mr Mann may have disturbed a thief. A man dressed in a distinctive turquoise jacket

was seen running across Mr Mann's back garden shortly before his body was discovered.

Yesterday, hours after appealing to the public for information about Mr Mann's death, police said that a man aged 25 from the neighbouring Co Durham pit village of New Brancepeth was arrested on New Year's Eve night. He was still in custody last night.

The death of Mr Mann, who served in the Navy in the Second World War, has shocked the local community. Detective Superintendent David Grey said: "Everyone who went to the scene was appalled by what they saw. Not just because of the

time of year, but at the sight of a 90-year-old man, who clearly was no bother or harm to anyone, to have finished his life in such a violent way."

Mr Mann had two brothers, Leslie, 87, and Mark, 85, who lived in neighbouring villages. Both were still too upset to talk about their brother's death last night.

A neighbour said: "After the death of Eva, his wife, Wilf spent a lot of time taking walks alone. He would go and sit on the bench in the park and just quietly watch the world go by. Everyone knew him as the local cobbler but he was known by a lot of people as a decent man besides."

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The missing girl

Kayleigh police ask for help

By STEWART TENDERL

POLICE have enlisted the help of the National Missing Persons Helpline in their hunt for Kayleigh Ward, the nine-year-old girl from Cheshire who vanished shortly before Christmas.

As the charity began preparing posters yesterday as part of its appeal for help in tracing Kayleigh, Cheshire police asked the public for more assistance in finding her.

Kayleigh, described as streetwise, vanished after going to buy chips for a neighbour on December 19. She lived with her mother and two sisters in a hostel in Chester.

She often spent time with travellers and tramps near her home. Police have contacted a number of travellers' camps in North Wales and have also been in touch with Irish police.

THE parents of a teenager who went missing more than a year ago are convinced that a grainy videotape proves that their daughter is still alive.

Ruth Wilson, a bright 16-year-old, vanished on Monday November 27, 1995, leaving empty pill bottles at a local beauty spot near her comfortable home at Betchworth, near Dorking, Surrey. There had been no sightings of her until, on the anniversary of her disappearance, a teenager entered a newsagents in Dorking and asked for local newspapers. She was distressed and became more emotional when told that one of the newspapers was sold out. The events were recorded by the shop's video cameras.

The teenager was such a compelling figure that the newsagent contacted the authorities. Karen Wilson, a deputy head teacher, and her husband, Ian, a school departmental head, have pored over the video many times.

Initially, they did not believe it was their daughter but have become convinced of the identity. It is the first glimmer of hope that the couple have allowed themselves since Ruth went missing.

Their pain is constant. "Little things trigger it off."

Mrs Wilson said: "We cannot really go ahead until we know where Ruthie is. In the dark moments, you believe she can't possibly be alive. Other times you are convinced she is out there somewhere."

In Ruth's bedroom her books, clothes and electric guitar are as she left them. The sixth former, who was studying chemistry and biology A levels, gave no sign of a personal crisis.

A taxi driver dropped her outside a public house at Box Hill. When she failed to return, police and volunteers searched 1,000 acres of rough parkland with dogs, helicopters and heat-seeking scan-

ers. Police discovered that she had visited a florist's and, two days after she went missing, a bouquet was delivered to her parents. There was no card attached.

Several days later police found three notes hidden under a bush in the Box Hill undergrowth. They amounted to farewells to her parents, her best friend and a boy she knew. Near by were empty packets of paracetamol tablets and a bottle of alcohol.

Police continue with routine checks. The Wilsons are heartened by police assurances that if Ruth was dead her body would have turned up by now.

However, it is the National Missing Persons Helpline charity and the Leatherhead police upon whom the couple have come to rely. "They have been superb," Mr Wilson said. "We are in regular contact."

Ruth's disappearance has been hard on her sister Jenny, 14. On one occasion she collapsed into sobs in the bedroom she shared with her music-loving sister. "I miss her so much," she told her mother.

Between her own tears Mrs Wilson said: "We want to tell her, we love you so much. Just get in contact, Ruthie. Let us know where you are."



Ruth Wilson: gave no sign of personal crisis



Karen and Ian Wilson: "We cannot go ahead until we know where Ruthie is"

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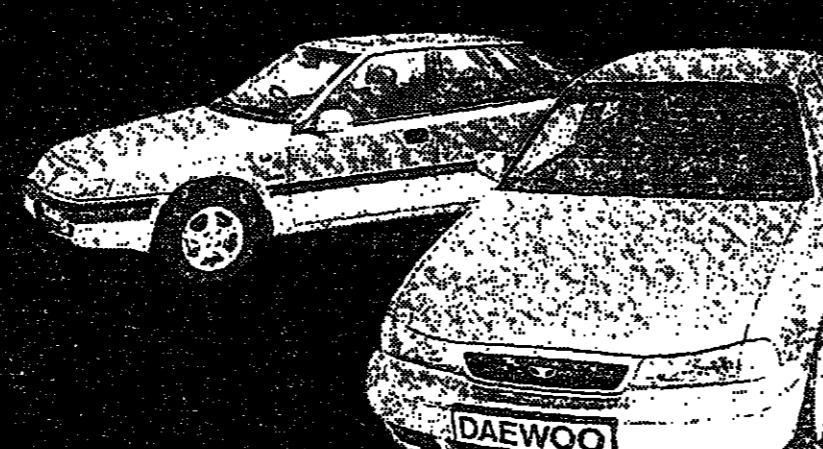
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How artist creates teenage face of vanished child

By A STAFF REPORTER

SHE looks like a happy, slightly impish 14-year-old, with the first signs of maturity showing in her face. The impression is mistaken.

The picture is an age-enhanced portrait of Loubna Benissa, who went missing at the age of nine on August 5, 1992, when she went to buy some yoghurt at the local store near her home in Brussels. The enhancement was created by the National Missing Persons Helpline at the request of the Belgian police conducting the Dutroux inquiry into a series of paedophile murders.

The artist said: "I was worried that I might not be able to do Loubna's picture because it is so harrowing. When you get the photographs, you cut off your emotions and get on with the job. After it was over, I breathed a sigh of relief."

In general, the shape of the skull and the forehead remain the same while the nose, cheek bones and chin are more dynamic. The older Loubna's nose and neck are elongated, the lips slightly more pronounced and the hair scraped back with fly-away strands.

However, the artist was careful not to lose the little girl totally. Chillingly, she says that if Loubna had been snatched by a paedophile ring, and prostituted, then she would not have been allowed to grow up.

Ms Cullington was trained at the National Centre for the Missing and Exploited in Washington DC. She is one of a handful of artists around the world with the expertise to carry out such work.

She said: "It is like doing a complicated jigsaw puzzle. It is 50 per cent art work and 50 per cent computer wizardry."

There is concern among workers at an apparent increase in the numbers of girls under 16 being lured into prostitution in London. They are as young as 13 and 14, and most are runaways from care homes.

One of the 140 cases termed "young vulnerable" is a naive, 14-year-old Welsh girl who was picked up by a pimp and set up in a brothel in King's Cross. She is subjected to violence routinely to keep her in line. Her calls to the helpline are heart-breaking.

Under Sharia — Islamic law — the family of a murder victim can demand a death penalty or they can ask for the payment of *dīyah*, or blood money. If they waive this latter right, a sentence of five years or less could be imposed.

Mr Al-Hejailan said: "I think it would be quite devastating for the Western world if an Australian family is seen to be asking for capital punishment."

Forgiveness, if they declare forgiveness, a judge would not allow capital punishment. If they insist on capital punishment, a judge would consider it very seriously."

The lawyer plans to see Ms Parry and Lucille McLaughlin, 31, from Dundee, on Sunday. Mr Al-Hejailan is also planning an appeal for clemency to the family of Yvonne Gifford, 55. He said the Gifford family held the key to the lives of the two women. "It is the family of a victim that declares a desire or declares

that retracting a confession was unusual in Saudi Arabia.

Mr Al-Hejailan said: "May someone say if you sign, you will just be deported — I have seen circumstances like that in the past. Or maybe an interpreter or translator gave that information."

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Line of hope that can bring families together

By RUSSELL JENKINS

A TELEPHONE line set up to reassure families that missing sons and daughters are safe has been receiving twice as many calls over this Christmas and new year period as last winter.

Most calls to Message Home, the confidential free-call service run by the National Missing Persons Helpline, are from boys of 15 and girls of 17, but the average age is falling. The charity is also concerned at evidence that an increasing number of girls are being targeted by pimps to work as prostitutes.

The line enables runaways to leave a reassuring message for their families without risk of giving themselves away. More than 250,000 people go missing from home each year, many of them over the festive period when family tensions bubble to the surface.

The charity, which welcomes donations, is based above a supermarket in south-east London, has 60 volunteers, a handful of staff, and about 14,000 files on its computer database. It receives more than 80,000 telephone calls a year. The faces of about 140 "young vulnerable" stare out of the charity's adverts on the pages of *The Big Issue* magazine, on Carlton TV or on Body Shop vans. Two out of every three cases publicised in this way are resolved.

The charity is negotiating with Railtrack to place posters at every major station. These are often the first ports of call for runaways. Jane Pearson, Message Home's manager, said: "The worrying aspect is that the age of callers is going down every year.

Recently Ms Pearson received a call from an 11-year-old who had left home that day and found herself frightened, alone and penniless. When the charity contacted the family, they found the mother in tears and the father roaming the streets desperately searching for his daughter.

The parents were persuaded not to call the police but to keep the telephone line open. After several lengthy conversations on the charity line, the child agreed to ring her parents and return home.

In another case, the charity helped a family whose daughter ran away as a 15-year-old after her parents refused to allow her stay at an all-night party. They were reunited three years later.

Ms Pearson said: "The parents burst into tears and set off the next morning to see her. As a teenager you think nobody loves you at home. Everything in your world has gone wrong. You tell them their parents are in floods of tears and then they burst into tears themselves. They say: 'I thought nobody loved me.'

"Christmas is a busy time. People are thinking of their families and those on the streets believe everyone else is going back to their families. It is cold and miserable. They see everyone having fun with friends and family."

There is concern among workers at an apparent increase in the numbers of girls under 16 being lured into prostitution in London. They are as young as 13 and 14, and most are runaways from care homes.

One of the 140 cases termed "young vulnerable" is a naive, 14-year-old Welsh girl who was picked up by a pimp and set up in a brothel in King's Cross. She is subjected to violence routinely to keep her in line. Her calls to the helpline are heart-breaking.

□ National Missing Persons Helpline: 0500 700 700.

□ Message Home: 0500 700 740.

Nurses' confession may have been improperly obtained

By STEWART TENDERL
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A CONFESSION alleged to have been made by the two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia may have been improperly obtained, the senior Saudi lawyer defending them said yesterday.

Salah Al-Hejailan said that he was aware of reports that Deborah Parry, 41, from the Midlands, was retracting her confession, which would have been made before three judges, but he had no firsthand knowledge of this. He

said retracting a confession was unusual in Saudi Arabia.

Mr Al-Hejailan said: "May someone say if you sign, you will just be deported — I have seen circumstances like that in the past. Or maybe an interpreter or translator gave that information."

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Line of
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THE TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1997

HOME NEWS 5

£15m rollercoaster goes to new lengths in the funfair wars

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

COMPETITION to create the ultimate rollercoaster intensified yesterday with a £15 million plan to build Europe's longest ride at the Lincolnshire seaside.

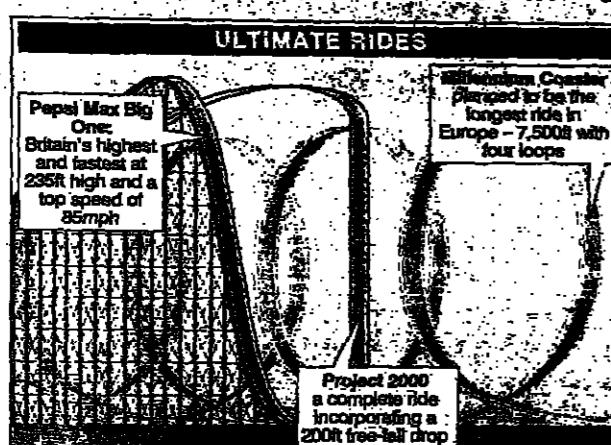
The Millennium Coaster at the Magical World of Fantasy Island at Ingoldmells, near Skegness, is intended to be 7,500ft long. The current European leader is the 4,748ft ride at Lightwater Valley theme park, near Ripon, North Yorkshire, which takes more than 50 minutes.

More than 100 rollercoasters have been built worldwide in the past year, and such rides are a potent weapon in luring millions of visitors to Britain's theme parks. Blackpool Pleasure

Beach had 7.4 million visitors in 1995, ranking eighth among the world's most popular amusement parks. Alton Towers, Staffordshire, was twenty-eighth with three million.

The new attraction being considered by Lincolnshire planners would include at least four 70ft-high loops. It would rank as the country's most-bracing ride with tracks running alongside the beach and the 28-acre Fantasy Island site. A spokesman for the developer, Blue Anchor Leisure, said: "People will get a super view of the coast. We were very keen to make this the longest coaster in Europe."

Such length, according to rivals, is not everything.



Sobering thought of lost hours

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

IF you have already forgotten where you were on New Year's Eve you may be consoled to know why. Scientists at the Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California, have traced levels of a protein in the brain called c-Fos, which gives a general index of how active the brain is at any time.

In rats given the equivalent of four drinks, they report in *Molecular Psychiatry*, levels of c-Fos rose in several parts of the brain, particularly those involved in regulating emotion and motivation, and processing sensory information.

However, c-Fos levels fell in the region of the brain called the hippocampus, and remained depressed even when the animals were exposed to a novel environment, which would normally stimulate hippocampal activity.

The hippocampus is responsible for forming complex memories and for orientation in time and space. Dr Andrew Ryabinin and colleagues conclude that it is the selective effect of alcohol on the hippocampus that accounts for the loss of hours during heavy drinking.

Jewish priest caste 'has genetic line'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Jewish priesthood has genetic characteristics that may date back more than 3,000 years, scientists have found.

According to the account in the Bible, the Jewish priesthood was established 3,300 years ago, with the appointment of the first Israelite high priest. Ever since, men who can claim descent through their fathers have held special duties and responsibilities in the Jewish religion, as Cohanim, or Cohens.

Knowledge of their descent is based largely in folk memory, and in Reform Judaism their role has been largely replaced by that of rabbis. A new study, however, shows that Jewish men who describe themselves as Cohens do have a distinct genetic inheritance that supports their claim.

Strikingly, that is true both of Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews, two communities that separated during the Diaspora in the past thousand years. The implication is that the priestly caste was established before the separation, as the biblical sources claim.

The studies, reported in *Nature*, were carried out by

scientists from the Technion in Haifa, University College London, and the University of Arizona. They took swabs from the inside of the cheek of Jewish men in Israel, North America and Britain, and using a technique for multiplying the DNA in the swabs, studied genes on the Y chromosome. This is the male chromosome, inherited largely unchanged from father to son.

The team, led by Dr Karl Skorecki, of the Technion (the Israel Institute of Technology), studied DNA from 69 men who described themselves as Cohens and 120 others who were Jewish but not Cohens.

They found that a particular marker on the Y chromosome, called YAP1, was far less common in the Cohens than in the lay Jews. Only 15 per cent of the Y chromosomes in the Cohens carried this particular marker, while 18.4 per cent of lay Jews did. The same distinction was observed in Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews.

The finding backs the claim that Cohens do indeed have an ancestry through their paternal line that is distinct from that of other Jews.

Hunger for medical advance eats into vital research funds

By JOHN YOUNG

FOR the parents of a child born with a serious congenital illness, joy is tinged with tragedy. In the coming years such births will become increasingly rare because of advances in neonatal surgery that allow defects to be corrected in the fetus.

This surgery is still at a relatively early stage but neonatal scanning has enabled doctors to predict with some certainty the health of a newborn child and to treat conditions that would, until

recently, have been fatal. Parents of patients at the Evelina Children's Hospital in central London are probably only vaguely aware of the research carried out at hospitals like Guy's and St Thomas' which saves many young lives.

Money for research comes partly from the Medical Research Council, from large charities, such as the Wellcome Trust and a host of smaller charities, as well as donations and bequests. But there is never enough. Professor George Haycock, professor of paediatrics, lists just

other projects include long-term research into the improvement of dialysis techniques. The Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Trust maintains the largest paediatric kidney transplant unit in Britain, combined with constant study of ways of preventing rejection.

Other departments are studying respiratory diseases, bowel disorders, pre-natal heart operations and the implantation of devices such as pacemakers into young patients. Research is also being conducted into new treatments for neurological diseases such as epilepsy and muscular dystrophy.

More controversial is the research into the use of artificial organs to replace human tissues and advances in genetic engineering. "It may be quite a long time off but I think it is going to happen," Professor Haycock said. "For this and for all our other research we need more and more money."

The Evelina Appeal

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Happiness is the key to quitting smoking

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MISERABLE people are more likely to smoke and find it harder to quit than those who are cheerful, scientists say.

People who have made new year resolutions to stop smoking are much more likely to fail if they are feeling down in the dumps. An American study of 269 smokers who wanted to kick the habit found that only 37 per cent of those with depression lasted a week without lighting up, compared with 56 per cent of those who were not depressed.

The Harvard University researchers say in the *Journal of Clinical Psychology* that treatment with nicotine patches is especially helpful for those who rely on cigarettes to boost their mood. People who want to stop smoking should first be screened for signs of depression and offered nicotine replacement, they say.

Dr Martin Jarvis, reader in health psychology at University College London, said surveys showed that more than half of those with depression smoked.

Dr Guy Sutherland, from the National Addiction Centre at the Institute of Psychiatry in London, said that, depressed or not, people who succeed in quitting smoking for a month could look forward to less stress. "The problem is that most smokers never stay off cigarettes long enough to realise this, because in the first weeks of quitting their stress levels go up."



Baby Erin arrives on the stroke of twelve

By A STAFF REPORTER

ERIN Elizabeth Scullion was claimed yesterday to be Britain's first baby of 1997 after being born as Big Ben struck midnight.

Doctors stamped official birth documents for the 8lb 5oz girl with a delivery time of 00.00 hours on the first day of the new year. Her father Kevin said: "It doesn't make her any more special — nothing could. She's gorgeous."

Erin was born by Caesarean section after her mother, Berenice, 24, was in labour for 11 hours at the Friarage Hospital, Northallerton, North Yorkshire. Mrs Scullion was conscious throughout the delivery, which ended as the clock chimed for the twelfth time.

Mr Scullion said: "We had the radio on but no one was really paying much attention to it. Then just on the twelfth 'ding', they flipped over to Trafalgar Square and we heard all the crowds singing *Auld Lang Syne* — and the baby cried. It was a wonderful moment. The midwives and doctors have marked her birth card with all the noughts — 00.00 — that's what time she was born."

He said that mother and daughter — born with a mop of strawberry blonde hair — were doing well. Erin is the first child for the couple, who are air traffic controllers at RAF Leeming in North Yorkshire. Mr Scullion, 25, also has a six-year-old son, Owen.

Nappy new year: baby Erin and her mother Berenice in hospital yesterday

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The Archers recover their lost past in Tokyo and Kentucky

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of episodes of *The Archers*, thought to have been lost forever, have been unearthed as far afield as Tokyo, Kentucky and Pontypool.

The home-made recordings of the programme came to light after the BBC asked *The Archers*' four million listeners to help to trace vintage episodes of the rural soap which the corporation had simply thrown away.

Vanessa Whitburn, editor of *The Archers*, said she was overwhelmed at the response to the appeal, which was launched in November. "People seem to have secreted tapes in attics, cellars and suitcases. We guessed this might be the case but could not be sure," she said.

Ms Whitburn said that the corporation was particularly keen on older episodes from the serial's early days in the 1950s and 1960s. "There was one episode in the early 1960s when Walter Gabriel bought a baby elephant to the

Ambridge fete. I hope that somewhere, amongst all the treasures that people are sending in, this episode will come to light," she said.

Paul Hickey, who first began listening to *The Archers* as a boy of ten in the 1960s, has collected over 150 hours, recorded for him between 1985 to 1989 when he worked for an American bank in Tokyo.

His *Archers* tapes had made him an instant hit with British expatriate wives. "When you are abroad, *The Archers* is the aural equivalent of Marmite, something quintessential English and a welcome taste of home that you can't get anywhere else," he said.

Listening to *The Archers* is a regular Sunday tea-time habit of Philip and Margaret Chase, a Birmingham couple who live in Lexington, Kentucky. The couple left Britain in 1972 and have been semi-tapes regularly by relatives. "It is one of those things that keeps you in touch with the old

country," Mr Chase, 49, an oil company executive, said.

Reginald Watkins, a sheep farmer from Pontypool, Gwent, has kept 80 tapes of *The Archers* recorded over the past 15 years. His collection is unusual because it consists of edited highlights rather than entire programmes. His tapes contain valuable scenes with older characters such as Walter Gabriel and Mrs P.

The *Archers* appeal resulted

from the BBC's previous policy of re-recording over old tapes.

Between 1981 and 1989

only episodes containing

momentous scenes such as births,

marriages and deaths were

kept. The introduction of digital

technology in the early

1990s, which enables material

to be stored in a fraction of the

space occupied by old-fashioned

tape reels, means that

now all episodes are kept.

The tapes provided by *Archers* fans will be used to make a further compilation tape for

sale by the BBC.



Sister act: twins Karen and Sarah Steben, 21, of Montreal, whose Duo Trapeze act forms part of the *Salimbano* show by the Cirque du Soleil. The show, at the Royal Albert Hall until January 19, blends theatre, dance, acrobatics, music, costume and a dramatic light show

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Employers admit they still lend an ear to accents

By Joe JOSEPH

THE spirit might be willing, but the flesh is still weak when it comes to not discriminating against people with the sorts of accent you hear in gritty Alan Bleasdale dramas or from Benny at the late *Crossroads* motel.

The Institute of Personnel and Development came to that insight after questioning recruitment specialists, who confessed that, yes, people with strong regional accents were often discriminated against at work or when applying for jobs.

The basic gist is that if you have a Liverpool, Glasgow or Birmingham accent, and you are really keen to get that job, then learn sign language before your interview. Those are the three accents that are seen as "negative" by some employers.

But if you are a Glaswegian entrepreneur or personnel director you get your own back, because in Scotland an upper-class English accent "positively incites hostility", according to the chief executive of one recruitment firm.

Accent one London recruitment consultant told the institute, "communicates background, education and birthplace and frankly, some backgrounds are more marketable than others. I would advise anyone with a 'redbrick' or industrial accent to upgrade. Politicians and lawyers do it, so why shouldn't others?"

Another consultant said: "Let's face it – people with a Scouse accent sound whiny and people with Brummie accents sound stupid."

A Dorset woman told the survey that she had no idea how strong the attitude to accents was until she moved to London: "As soon as I opened my mouth, people



Worzel Gummidge case for job discrimination?

would be queuing up to do Worzel Gummidge imitations. A lot of people seem to think that if you spoke with a Dorset accent, you were thick and uneducated. Some would even slow down or speak louder when they were talking to me."

John Major is doing what he can to set an example. In his drive for a classless Britain, in which all are judged on ability rather than accent, he has made Parliament a refuge for anyone who feels discriminated against because of how they speak. Major himself persists in saying "wunt" instead of "want", Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, calls us "pipple" instead of people, and John Prescott, the deputy leader of the Opposition, speaks in complex accented English.

Dianne Worman, the Institute of Personnel and Development's equal opportunities policy adviser, says: "Decisions about people's suitability for jobs, promotion or training should only ever be based on merit and ability, not petty prejudice." She's probably against sin, too.

Parents' toy story costs them £1,750

By A STAFF REPORTER

PARENTS spend an average of £1,750 on toys for their children up to the age of 14, research has shown. Five-year-olds receive the most at £200 each a year, falling to £14 a year for those aged 12.

A survey of 3,800 youngsters for the toy manufacturer Lego found that the average family of 2-3 children spends £4,203 on toys by the time their sons and daughters reach 14. Girls said that they paid more attention to the "aesthetic beauty" of a toy, tending to prefer more realistic rather than artificial toys.

The survey found that girls read for pleasure and listened to the radio or music more than boys, who spent more time using a computer or playing sport. Swimming, cycling and football were the three most popular sports.

Girls of all ages were found to read more than boys and to progress quickly from comics to magazines. The average age of girls reading the magazine *Just 17* was 13, according to the survey.



TRAVEL '97
Matthew Parris takes his father into the Antarctic wilderness

Plus

Alan Frank in the Australian Outback; Nicholas Wapshot under water in Kenya; Paul Hoggart on the QE2

In the Magazine

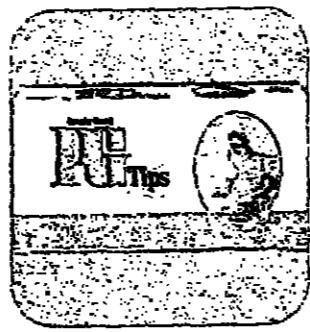
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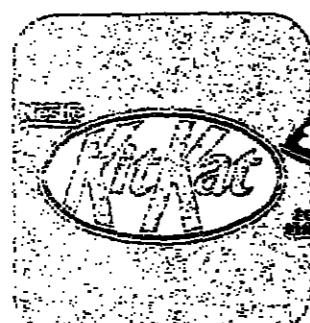


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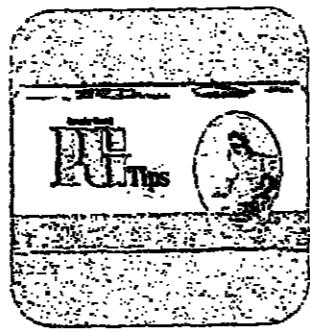
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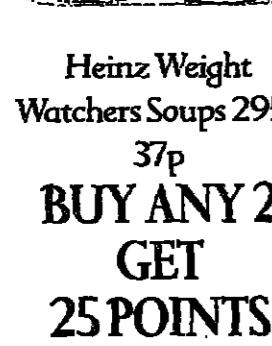
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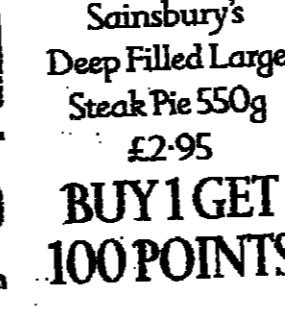
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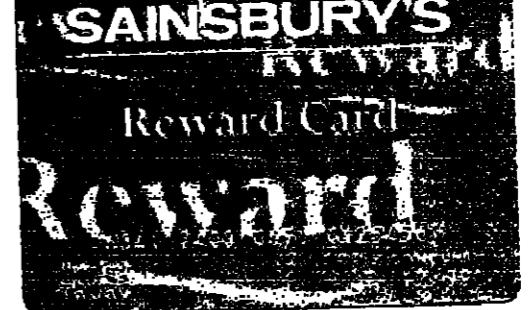
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Two Republicans throw lifeline to embattled Gingrich

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

NEWT GINGRICH received an unexpected boost yesterday in his fight to win re-election as Speaker of the US House of Representatives despite his admission of ethics violations.

Two Republicans on the ethics sub-committee who investigated Mr Gingrich declared that they will still vote for him. They also vowed to oppose any attempts to censure Mr Gingrich that would preclude him from holding the Speaker's chair.

This news was offshoot of an announcement from the ethics committee that it would not begin its deliberations on a punishment for Mr Gingrich until next Wednesday, one day after the full House is supposed to vote for a new Speaker. Nor will the agony be over quickly: the committee anticipates taking two weeks, with public hearings and no final action by the full House on punishment until January 21, the day after President Clinton's inauguration for his second term.

Mr Gingrich had already declared that he would stand for re-election, even if the committee was still pondering his fate. The 227 House Republicans left in the awkward position of voting for him without knowing all the

facts. This puts a strain on the loyalty many feel towards him for leading their capture of the House in 1994 after 40 years in the minority.

So far 18 Republicans have been quoted as uneasy about having to vote before his punishment is known and many more have been pressured by editors in their local newspapers to abandon Mr Gingrich for abusing the public trust.

Only one back-bencher, Michael Forbes of Long Island, has stated flatly that he will not vote for Mr Gingrich. But if 20 Republicans decide to abstain they would provoke a disaster for the party by allowing the Democrats to elect their leader, Richard Gephardt, as Speaker. It is a powerful position and second only to the Vice-President in the line of succession to the presidency.

In an effort to avoid further slippage, a letter was faxed to all House Republicans from their two colleagues on the ethics committee who said their support for Mr Gingrich was solid. Porter Goss, of Florida, and Steve Schiff, of New Mexico, wrote: "We know of no reason now, nor do we foresee any in the normal course of events, why New

Gingrich would be ineligible to serve as Speaker." In other words, the pair think that censuring Mr Gingrich would be unwarranted and will opt instead for the lesser penalty of a reprimand, which would not require him to step down as Speaker. They could not guarantee, of course, that the eight other committee members — five Democrats and three Republicans — will feel the same way. The letter was greeted by Democrats as evidence of Mr Gingrich's crumbling support.

For all his troubles, no challenger to Mr Gingrich has emerged within the Republican ranks, a testament to his skill at building coalitions within the party. But if his chances of re-election become more precarious, Republicans may be forced to appoint a caretaker Speaker to fill in until his case is settled.

Mr Gingrich's problems stem from his televised college course, a scarcely disguised attempt to recruit new party members. He has admitted failing to ensure that he complied with laws barring use of tax-exempt charitable donations to pay for a partisan project and to misleading Congress about his connection to the funds.

New UN chief to coax America over \$1.3bn debt

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE first task facing Kofi Annan, who took office yesterday as Secretary-General of the United Nations, will be to repair the organisation's fractured relations with America.

High on Mr Annan's agenda is a trip to Washington — likely to be his first official visit — to discuss a suggested "grand bargain" that would offer UN reform in exchange for America paying its \$1.3 billion (750 million) debt to the organisation.

President Clinton has invited the new UN chief to visit the White House before Inauguration Day on January 20, and Jesse Helms, the veteran conservative senator, has suggested that he meet members of his powerful Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which decides US funding.

In his inaugural address to the UN General Assembly, Mr Annan said that he would seek agreement of UN member states on how to "reposition" the organisation for the next century. "Kofi is not planning revolutions," one aide cautioned. "He is going to be scaling back and seeking consensus."

Mr Annan will be helped in his relations with the Americans by the perception that he

was installed as America's best-heeled after Washington used its veto power in the Security Council to oust the Egyptian incumbent, Boutros Boutros Ghali.

As the former head of the UN peacekeeping department during the traumatic missions in Somalia and Bosnia, Mr Annan also enjoys the confidence of the new US Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, who spent the last four years as Washington's Ambassador at the UN.

The Clinton Administration is expected to propose in its forthcoming budget recommendations to Congress that the United States pay off its UN debt in installments. The proposal will face resistance in the Republican-controlled Congress, however, where key legislators are insisting on further proof that the UN will streamline its operations.

In an olive branch to Mr Annan, Mr Helms wrote in a letter: "If you choose to be an agent of real and deep-seated change you will find many supporters and even allies here in the US Congress."

Speaking on his last day in office, Dr Boutros Ghali lamented that he had been unable to solve the organisation's longstanding financial crisis, which largely stems from the American arrears. He added that he had tried to maintain a "minimum of independence" — a clear dig at the United States.

■ Tokyo's turn: Japan joined the UN Security Council, along with four other countries, and assumed the rotating presidency for a one-month stint. Costa Rica, Japan, Kenya, Portugal and Sweden were elected by the General Assembly on October 21 to sit on the Security Council for two years as non-permanent members. (AP/FP)

US presidency gains new powers of veto

BY IAN BRODIE

FEW changes have been awaited with more anticipation in Washington than the new veto power given to the President under a law that came into effect yesterday.

The new authority, known as the line-item veto, enables President Clinton and his successors to strike specific spending or tax measures from legislation without killing a whole Bill.

The aim is to go after the so-called "pork barrel" projects that members of Congress slip into spending bills to benefit their own constituents. Another target will be the special tax breaks for firms or industries that lawmakers attach to bills as favours to lobbyists or big campaign contributors.

Ronald Reagan started pleading for a line-item veto 15

Hashimoto attacks role of media in Lima siege

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI
IN LIMA AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

JAPAN'S Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto yesterday criticised the media for making direct contact with rebels holding 81 hostages at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima, Peru.

"It has provided the guerrillas with a propaganda opportunity," Mr Hashimoto told reporters. "I think it may harden the Peruvian Government."

A score of photographers were admitted to the hostage compound on Tuesday. They talked to rebel leader Nestor Cerpa, Cartolini and some captives, including Japan's Ambassador Morihisa Aoki.

Mr Aoki said he "must deeply apologise to the Japanese people and the Japanese Government for the situation because this occupation is caused by my lack of virtue," according to an interview broadcast on Japanese television.

The hostages were seized by a "Tupac Amaru" "suicide squad" at a party on December 17. Those that remain are largely key military figures and top police officials.

Red Cross workers kept up their supply of food and water to the besieged residence, and delivered smoked salmon, turkeys, and cakes to "celebrate" the new year. But the



hostages must have spent the first hours of 1997 wondering whether they would ever get out.

President Fujimori announced he was running out of patience and did not rule out the use of force to end the stand-off. "To rule out the use of force I want to see the terrorists putting down their arms and releasing the hostages first," he said yesterday.

The rebels say they will not budge from their main de-

mand for the release of hundreds of imprisoned guerrillas serving life sentences in remote, high-security prisons.

"We came into the Japanese Ambassador's home with the intention of getting our comrades out of inhuman prisons and will not be leaving until this happens. We are ready to hold out for weeks," Senior Cerpa told the cameramen on Tuesday.

His "army" of young guer-

illas dressed in battle fatigues and all wearing red and white bandanas across their faces — some are women no older than 18 — showed off their arsenal of weapons to photographers. Television pictures showed that sofas and dining tables inside the Japanese Ambassador's home have been piled up as shields against the windows.

It looks like the rebels are now ready to get tough and

have in their hands all the people who have been their traditional enemies," said a Western diplomat.

"It becomes harder and harder to envisage an end without bloodshed," he added.

Security and government officials say they expect a drawn out stand-off that could last for weeks, but are also drawing up plans for military intervention.

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Elysée destroys clue to terror

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

THE office of President Chirac was embarrassed yesterday by the disclosure that it had thrown away an envelope that could have helped investigators to track down Islamic terrorists operating in France.

The envelope, which contained a letter from the Algerian Armed Islamic Group, was thrown into a wastepaper bin and cannot be found, according to *Le Monde* newspaper. As a result, detectives are unsure how the letter arrived at the Elysée Palace shortly before Christmas and are unable to trace the people who sent it.

In the two-page letter, the group threatened to "destroy your country" unless the French Government cut all links with the Algerian regime of President Zeroual.

It also implicitly admitted responsibility for the explosion that killed four people on the Paris Metro on December 3.

□ Ajaccio: Suspected guerrillas bombed a public works office in southeastern Corsica yesterday, the police said. Nobody was hurt. (Reuter)

De Klerk accuses Mandela of letting South Africa drift

FROM REUTER IN JOHANNESBURG

PRESIDENT MANDELA'S Government is losing its grip and the people of South Africa are heading for huge disappointment, F. W. de Klerk, the former President, said yesterday. "The impression of a ship drifting downstream, apparently rudderless, is constantly compounded," he said in his message for 1997.

Mr de Klerk is the leader of the white-dominated National Party, which invented apartheid and then scrapped it with an apology to the five-to-one black majority four decades later.

He listed as the Government's worst faults "the bungling of foreign affairs and, above all, the surging crime wave".

President Mandela, however, gave a sharply contrasting assessment in his new year message. "Across the land, the impact of reconstruction and development is beginning to be felt," he said. "In short, we have laid solid foundations: the challenge for 1997 is to build on them. By keeping our sights on the long term, we can manage the ebbs and flows of the present."

Mr de Klerk claimed that South Africans would soon experience enormous disappointment at unfulfilled promises on education, health and

development, and that this would haunt the Government. "The expectations aroused by President Mandela and the ANC [African National Congress] are enormous. Before long, the disappointment will take on the same proportions."

The former President, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with Mr Mandela in 1993 for their roles in South Africa's transition, led his party out of the national unity coalition government last May, saying that the country had grown up enough to handle "fearless criticism" from a robust parliamentary opposition.

In this role his catalogue of woes included the ailing currency, which has lost 30 per cent of its value against the dollar in less than a year.

He also cited the continued drain of "brainpower and experience" of white emigrants, driven out by an ailing economy and one of the highest violent crime rates — 52 murders every day — in the world.

President Mandela's message was that progress had been made in redressing the skewed development which saw the white minority dominating blacks for 350 years. "We can take pride in the

Secret British bases plan revealed

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

SECRET negotiations to set up British military bases in Australia in the event of UK defence forces vacating or being "forced out" of Singapore and Malaysia, have been revealed in 1966 Cabinet documents that were released yesterday under Australia's 30-year rule.

The records show that the conservative Government of Harold Holt came under pressure from London to accommodate British forces. But senior ministers in Canberra were worried that the Labour Government of Harold Wilson would use such a guarantee as an excuse to withdraw from Asia altogether.

At a meeting of the Cabinet's foreign affairs and defence committee, Australian officials expressed concern that the British might want to get out of Singapore and Malaysia after 1970. One particular

minute recorded ministers arguing: "Britain appeared to hope for an eventual solution where countries on the Asian mainland would be neutral and non-aligned, and where non-Asian powers would withdraw to offshore bases, eg in The Philippines and Australia." But Canberra rejected this strategy as "wholly unrealistic" because it would abandon South-East Asia to "communist aggression", which was regarded as being orchestrated by China.

A frank exchange between Denis Healey, the Defence Secretary, and Cabinet ministers in Canberra in 1966 offered an insight into Australia's strategic thinking, which drove the desire to keep British forces in Asia. During the meeting, ministers gave a warning that a withdrawal by the British from Singapore

might lead to an American withdrawal from the mainland of Asia" and also emphasised the importance of Britain in containing China. Mr Healey is reported to have openly acknowledged British forces were positioned to help to check "Chinese communist expansion".

Australia's relations with Asia were not restricted to military matters, yesterday's publication of Cabinet documents revealed. It also emerged that the country's "white Australia" immigration policy was relaxed in name only, as the Government continued to discriminate against Asians well into the early 1970s. A Cabinet meeting noted that the relaxation of immigration policy "should not be the means of giving rise to new admissions of non-Europeans (Asians) in large numbers".

Peking ushers in 1997 with praises for Deng

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

CHINA ushered in 1997 with a paean to senior leader Deng Xiaoping.

The state television broadcast yesterday the first episode of a documentary praising the political patriarch, a man whose pragmatic policies turned a backward Stalinist state into an economic powerhouse and helped to regain capitalist Hong Kong from Britain.

The programme, to be shown over 12 days, sets the tone for a crucial Communist Party congress due this year, largely by defining Mr Deng's legacy to the present party leadership, Chinese and Western political analysts said. "This is an extremely important year for the Communist Party with the recovery of Hong Kong and the holding of the fifteenth party congress," a Western diplomat said.

"China's leaders are reminding people that Deng was instrumental in regaining Hong Kong and they are using him to define their own policies at the congress and in the post-Deng era."

Mr Deng, 92, has not been seen in public in nearly three years. At his last appearance he looked frail and unsteady. The documentary showed a vigorous leader, larger than life and portrayed against a background of golden clouds.

He was seen inspecting factories while wearing a hard hat, shaking hands with children and receiving gifts of poppies in Paris in the 1970s.

Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* reported yesterday that Mr Deng has experienced spells of unconsciousness almost every week since early last year. It said that he was placed in intensive care last Monday night when he again briefly became unconscious and his nurses were unable to awaken him for supper at his home in central Peking.

However, the independent *Ming Pao*, also in Hong Kong, quoted a Xinhua news agency official as saying that reports that Mr Deng had been admitted to the hospital in a critical state were unfounded.



Runners in the annual 2,000m Great Wall race struggle against strong winds in temperatures of -25C (-13F) yesterday. Only 30 of the 2,000 entrants competed

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Kashmir deaths

Srinagar: Thirteen people, including a bank manager, were killed and 29 others injured in overnight clashes in the northern Indian state of Kashmir, police said. Troops killed four Muslim rebels. (AFP)

Gambia poll call

Banjul: President Jammeh of The Gambia has urged voters to ensure a big turnout for today's parliamentary elections, finalising the transition from military rule in the small West African state. (Reuters)

Muslims to die

Paris: Algerian courts sentenced 15 Muslims to death for "belonging to armed terrorist groups", the APS official Algerian news agency reported. Three of the men were tried in their absence. (Reuters)

Skydive survival

Sydney: Two Australian skydivers survived a 1,600ft fall after colliding in mid-air as hundreds watched at the national skydiving championships in Corowa, 335 miles from Sydney. (Reuters)

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Byzantium's 'last frontier' explored by British experts

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

DEPLOYING technology first used to study Hadrian's Wall, archaeologists are trying to unravel the secrets of Europe's other great defensive structure, the Long Wall built by the Emperor Anastasius during the sixth century AD.

The 30-mile wall once cut the Thracian peninsula in two and was referred to by Gibbon in his *Decline and Fall* as the Roman Empire's "last frontier". It was intended as the ultimate line of defence between a world inhabited by Goths and Bulgars and the hinterland of Constantinople, the capital of the Eastern Empire.

James Crow, of Newcastle University, who spent two decades studying Hadrian's Wall, is now wrestling with the suggestion that the Thracian wall was not only part of a much more complex defensive structure than previously thought, but that it was defending something even more precious than territory: the

water supplies for what was at the time not only Europe's largest city but also the largest city west of Peking.

This season's survey, led jointly by Alessandra Ricci, of Ankara's Bilkent University, and revealed a remarkable network of underground water channels as well as previously undocumented aqueducts which are more than 100ft high and span entire valleys. These were all part of a supply system that covered a distance of 150 miles and was far more elaborate than that of Rome itself. As an engineering feat, the system must be reckoned one of the wonders of the early medieval world.

One of the most important accomplishments of the Newcastle-Bilkent project may be to rescue so important an historical terrain from obscurity. If the Long Wall has remained largely unexamined until now that is because it was inside what was, up to the

end of the Cold War, a

military zone (along Turkey's border with Bulgaria) every bit as sensitive as it was at the time of its building.

The present survey has been

more exacting in pioneering methods very different from those normally associated with trench archaeology.

Much of the work so far has

been done not with spades but

with electronic theodolites that

download co-ordinates into

laptop computers. Software

developed at Newcastle then

reconstructs the wall as com-

puterised graphics.

What is revealed is a defen-

sive system complete with

towers and fortresses that ex-

tends as a single continuous

structure from the Black Sea

to the Sea of Marmara. In

front of the outer face of the

wall there were ditches and

defensive earthworks that in

places still survive.

The archaeologists are also

making novel use of low-orbiting

satellites to plot the exact

dimensions of their finds via a

Ground Positioning System

similar to, but more sophisti-

cated than, the navigational

equipment on a yacht. That

has enabled them to calculate

the exact incline of the aque-

ducts and to hypothesise that

the water collected in the

Istranca Mountains ran right

into the Valens aqueduct that

still stands in the centre of

what is now Istanbul.

Like any expensive defence

project, the wall had its critics.

The Emperor Justinian's offi-

cial historian, Procopius, criti-

cised the wall as a piece of "military hardware"

with a respectable shelf-life of

nearly 150 years. The wall

could not have

been so useless given that

the rival Hippo

armies of Greens and Blues

joined forces to repair it

after the earthquake of AD 558.

By the mid-sev-

enth century, however,

the cost of manning

and maintaining

the wall, coupled with the

effect of new siege equipment

wielded by invaders, made the

Long Wall obsolete.

It has to be remembered

that Hadrian's Wall is now

thought to have been

built more as a means of

surveillance and control than

as a deterrent against invasion.

On the other hand, the

dimensions of Anastasius's

wall show that it was built to

stop an army.

The battlements were 10ft

thick in places and the highest

towers more than 30ft high.

Although it could not be

defended along its entire

length, those who patrolled it

— the estimate is about 4,000

men — could gain enough

time for an army to be brought

forward from the city 40 miles

away.

The Long Wall has to be

looked at with another of the

survey's important finds. After

two years of hunting in a

different part of the country,

the Newcastle-Bilkent team

have discovered what they

confidently believe are the

remains of the Hexamilion, a

smaller wall in ancient Cheres-

one, or what is now

the Gallipoli peninsula. An army

trying to invade Asia Minor

would either head for the

Bosphorus Strait or cut south

to the Hellespont. Either way,

a wall stood in

its path. This

makes better

sense if one con-

siders that the

foundations of

the Chersonese

Wall go back to

the fifth century

BC and the line

it defines was

defended in this

century by the

British during

the allied occu-

pation of Istanbul at the end of

the First World War. The

Ottomans, too, in 1912 built a

version — and no more suc-

cessful — of a Maginot Line

that ran through Catalca, a

few miles closer to Istanbul

than the Anastasian Wall.

An equally impressive if

more puzzling find has been

that of an hydraulic network

on the "wrong side" of the

wall. Although Dirintekin

noted the aqueduct at Kur-

sulugemer outside the north-

ern section of the wall, his

description left Signora Ricci

unprepared for the sight of a

monumental display of imper-

ial might. It is clad in marble

and the keystone is decorated

with a *christmon* — a cross

within a laurel — a symbol of

the newly adopted state reli-

gion, Christianity.

The Long Wall has to be

looked at with another of the

survey's important finds. After

two years of hunting in a

different part of the country,

the Newcastle-Bilkent team

leads you to realise that there

was no sharp division between

the military and psychological

assertion of empire," Signora

Ricci says.

Indian readers won by scant coverage

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA's newsstands are sud-

denly crammed with glossy

magazines adorned with half-

dressed women and articles

about sex. The latest arrival is

an Indian edition of *Cosmo-*

politan, the cover of which

pants with the very un-Indian

headline: "What men want in

women today."

The arrival of *Cosmopol-*

itan reflects a shift in Indian

taste and tolerance: no longer

are people satisfied with mag-

azines such as *Femina*, which

are obsessed with fashion,

make-up and social sophis-

cation rather than sex. The

cover of *Cosmopolitan*'s first

Indian edition blurs into the

marker with a scantly-clad

girl above the headline: "The

greatest turn-on."



Dr Thomas Stuttaford on the dangers of diving into freezing water, the differences between flu and a heavy cold, why you should avoid snuggling up to your pet bird, and the hazards of the local hair salon

Icy waters bring on diving reflex

Christmas and new year swimmers have had more publicity than usual this year as in many seaside towns they had to plough through the snow before plunging into near-freezing water.

Even when a person is expecting it sudden immersion in cold water has a very marked influence on both the respiratory system and the circulation.

Even going under a cold shower produces a sharp inward draw of the breath, and similar changes affect the cardiovascular system. Plunging the limb of a patient with angina into cold water while carrying out an ECG tracing produces the characteristic changes of coronary arterial disease.

Mid-winter Serpentine bathers should either be

certain that they are free of heart disease, or leave charity fund-raising to somebody else.

Many swimmers pant before they dive into cold water in the belief that by

hyperventilating they will be able to hold their breath longer once in the water. The practice is not without hazard as it tends to slow the heart to the point where the swimmer may lapse into unconsciousness, and later death, if not rapidly revived. The slowing of the heart is induced by changes in the carbon dioxide blood levels, which are associated with hyperventilation.

Sudden immersion when someone is

not expecting it can be even more devastating and is one of the common causes of dry drowning. Dry drowning is the condition in which it is found that people who have been recovered from the water have no excess fluid in their lungs even though their immersion was fatal.

The late Dr Gavin Thurston, who was for

many years the coroner for central

'People survive long periods in cold water'

London, said the majority of the people whose inquest he conducted after they had died from falling in the Thames had no water in their lungs. Death in these cases of sudden drowning is a result of the sudden cooling which acts as a shock to the heart and precipitates ventricular fibrillation, a disordered rhythm of the heart which is incompatible with life.

Despite the tragic deaths of William and Jill Willis, the Essex dog lovers who gave their lives in an attempt to save their

labrador, people can survive

surprisingly long periods in

very cold water and are sometimes revived when all signs of life are apparently absent.

These survivors owe their

lives to the mammalian diving reflex.

The diving reflex, which is

better exhibited by animals

more accustomed to swimming in icy water, involves the redirection of the oxygenated

blood away from the limbs

and the gastro-intestinal tract

to the essential organs such as

the heart and brain. Patients, who have

been in cold water for an hour or two and have had rectal temperatures of below

20°C, have survived unscathed.

The nearer the water is to freezing, the more likely it is the reflex will be induced, fortunately the body's tissues also need

less oxygen to survive when they are

thoroughly chilled, which gives rescuers a

better chance of resuscitating the victims

than they would have had had the

accident happened in a warmer climate.

The diving reflex is more efficient in

children than in adults, as is exemplified

by the case a year or two ago of a toddler

who was swept a mile or two down the

river in Norfolk before being spotted

drifting in the water. He was rescued,

resuscitated and made a full recovery.



Mid-winter Serpentine bathers should either be certain that they are free of heart disease, or leave charity fundraising to others

The unhappy returns of flu

There is still doubt that the present outbreak of upper respiratory tract infections is the start of a genuine flu epidemic, or merely part of the usual seasonal increase in viral infections. At Christmas time there is more party-going, shops are crowded and this year people have become cold and damp because of the freezing weather. The holiday period has provided the ideal environment for viruses to spread and to infect hosts whose resistance has been lowered.

So far as the patient is concerned the difference between flu and a heavy cold is one of degree, and its symptoms therefore are subject to interpretation by the sufferer.

Some people are convinced that they never catch a cold, but always flu. Other sufferers, more emotionally robust and brought up in the tradition of grin and bear it, may have a headache, muscle pains, backache, shivering, a dry cough and high temperature—the typical symptoms of flu—and yet protest that they only have a cold. This stiff upper lip approach to winter infections is potentially dangerous both to colleagues who would rather not catch them, and to the patient.

Flu should always be nursed at home. In an uncomplicated case no more than a high fluid intake, aspirin for the adults, paracetamol for children, cough mixture, rest and warmth are needed. If

there is any sign that the patient has pneumonia (increasing breathlessness, a

blue tinge to their complexion, or bloodstained sputum or other signs of secondary infection a doctor should be called immediately. If a flu victim belongs to one of the high risk groups—the very young, the over-65s or those with chronic lung, heart, diabetes or kidney conditions—medical advice should also be sought. Patients taking immuno-suppressant drugs, including steroids, or who have malignancies will need skilled attention.

There are three types of influenza virus, A, B and C. The C virus is the mildest and often causes symptoms which are no worse than a cold. The current virus

emptying hospitals of nurses

while filling them with cases of

pneumonia is of the A variety.

Influenza A is less stable than B and usually causes more

severe symptoms. The nature of influenza A regularly undergoes shifts, major changes in the virus, or drifts, minor changes. After a shift the immunity of the population to the new-style virus is low and a severe epidemic may follow.

The latest figures suggest that the

incidents of flu are still well

below the 4 per 100,000 of the

population needed before an

epidemic can be declared. The

situation can, however, change rapidly. In the late

Sixties a flu epidemic suddenly

erupted over the Christmas

period; the flu virus like the

other respiratory viruses

spread by droplet infection,

can soon infect a community

enjoying the social life of the

winter holiday.

Hot and bothered

LIFE under the hooded dryers in a hairdressing salon has long been the subject of cartoonists but only recently has anyone investigated its effect on the cerebral circulation in elderly women.

The interest of the staff of the Accident and Emergency Department at Stockport Infirmary was aroused when ten women were admitted over a ten-month period after collapsing in local salons. The doctors asked 20 local salons to report when women fainted under a dryer. Four said that they had such cases once or twice a year. Typically the woman feels sweaty, sick and faint before losing consciousness. Recovery is unevenly.

The result of the research

is reported in the *British Journal of Clinical Practice*.

Older doctors will remember

to have experienced by barbers

when they shaved elderly

men with a cut-throat razor.

The collapse was attributed

to the way the head had been

awkwardly thrust forward,

or backward, while shaving

with the result that the

position of the neck had

restricted the blood flow

through thickened arteries.

Recovery is unevenly.

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Stoker and his real-life Dracula

In the centenary year of *Dracula's* publication, Daniel Farson reflects on the strange relationship between his great-uncle Bram Stoker and the actor-manager Sir Henry Irving

Hours of *Dracula* have two reasons to celebrate in 1997. Not only does the novel's centenary fall this year, but it is also the 150th anniversary of the birth of Bram Stoker, the least-known author of one of the best-known books ever written.

The more I have learnt about Bram, the greater my compassion for the man who was my great-uncle — the brother of my grandfather, Tom. Hero-worshipping others, married to a cold beauty who had been engaged to Oscar Wilde, Stoker spent a lifetime in the wings, taken for granted by those he applauded so loyally, especially the actor Sir Henry Irving, who devoured his life. Dying in 1912, broke and broken, he had no inkling that he had created one of the myths of the 20th century, which has grown into an industry.

When I was a boy I

read a yellow-bound first edition of *Dracula*, the title in scarlet letters, inscribed by Bram Stoker to my grandfather. I was so absorbed on top of a bus that the smiling conductor warned me I might have nightmares. She may not have read the novel but she knew all about it.

Everyone knows of *Dracula*, few of Stoker; let me share some family secrets. The question invariably asked is: how did Stoker, an otherwise indifferent author of 17 books, gain the inspiration for his single masterpiece? Why was he fascinated by vampires?

His interest in the "un-dead" began at an early age during a childhood illness which confined him to his room for the first seven years of his life. His mother, Charlotte, told him bedtime stories of the cholera epidemic that reached Ireland in 1834, where she lived with her parents in Sligo. Her family barricaded themselves inside their fumigated home while neighbours were carried away and looters robbed the empty houses.

My grandmother, Edith Stoker, remembered Charlotte as a formidable woman who saw the hand of a looter reaching through a skylight on one of the last terrible days. Seizing two axes, she hacked it off with one tremendous blow. She was 24.

His unexplained childhood illness miraculously cured, Bram had grown into a huge, red-bearded athlete by the time he entered Trinity College, Dublin. If ever a man had conflicting personalities it was Bram. He had the courage to leap into the Thames to save a drowning man, for which he received the Royal Humane Society's medal for gallantry.

He was also acutely sensitive, championing Walt Whitman, who was condemned by the Trinity college hearth as "morally offensive". Reading his poems under a tree, Bram recorded: "From that

hour I became a lover of Walt Whitman." He wrote him a long letter, never posted, which was close to a declaration of mutual sympathy for everything the poet stood for, including the special rapport between them.

Following his father, Abraham,

after whom he was named, Bram entered the Irish Civil Service and relieved the tedium by writing a horror serial for the *Shantock* with a character called the Phantom Head. The crucial turning-point came with his job as unpaid dramatic critic for the *Dublin Daily Mail* and his encounter with Henry Irving. The actor was nine years older and Bram, with his curious need to find a hero, reacted like a love-struck girl at their meeting.

Reviewing Irving's *Hamlet*, Stoker wrote: "In his fits of passion there is a realism that no one but a

genius can ever effect." Flattered, Irving invited him to dinner at his hotel and recited Hood's melodramatic poem *The Dream of Eugene Aram* with such mesmeric power that Stoker was close to hysterical collapse. Irving staggered into his bedroom and emerged with a signed photograph for "My dear friend Stoker. God Bless You! God Bless You! Henry Irving, Dublin. December 3, 1876".

In those moments of our mutual emotion," wrote Bram years later, "he too had found a friend and known it. Soul had looked into soul from that hour began a friendship as profound, as close, as lasting as can be between two men."

When Irving bought the Lyceum Theatre two years later, he telegraphed Bram asking him to be his acting manager. Bram accepted without hesitation, resigning from the secure drudgery of the Civil Service. Five days before joining Irving in Birmingham, on December 4, 1878, Bram married my great-aunt, Florence Balcombe, a beauty as chilly as marble with whom Oscar Wilde had previously been in love. Bram, with his reverence for the fair sex, placed her on a pedestal where she was happy to stay out of reach.

The handsome, red-bearded, Stoker became a familiar figure as he welcomed the greatest people of the time at the top of the Lyceum

Theatre in 1880.

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When the novel was published in 1897, the reception was mixed. The *Daily Mail* hailed it as "this weird, powerful and horrible story", but the *Athenaeum* was scornful: "It reads like a mere series of grotesquely incredible events". His mother was the most sagacious: "My dear, it is splendid. No book since Mrs Shelley's *Frankenstein* has come near yours in originality or terror. In its terrible excitement it should make a widespread reputation and much money for you." Prophetic words — but though he wrote another ten books, he received neither fame nor fortune in his lifetime. The first printing was only 3,000 copies, and there were no reprints. It was the film starring Bela Lugosi that brought success and countless subsequent editions.

Bram continued to work for Irving, with the bonus that their



Irresistible allure: the actor Christopher Lee, above, believes *Dracula* to be an erotic superman, fulfilling the fantasies of both men and women

American tour introduced him to his idol, Walt Whitman, but Irving was hopeless at business and Stoker unable to control him. The Fates take pleasure in changing sides and after so much glory it should make a widespread reputation and much money for you." Prophetic words — but though he wrote another ten books, he received neither fame nor fortune in his lifetime. The first printing was only 3,000 copies, and there were no reprints. It was the film starring Bela Lugosi that brought success and countless subsequent editions.

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valet in tears beside him. After carrying his body upstairs, he found it impossible to admit his mistake. He used Stoker badly, yet I came across an envelope with a message scrawled in Irving's seismographic hand which was indecipherable except for: "You above all men whom I hold dear."

Stoker accompanied Irving on his farewell tour of the provinces. After a performance in Bradford, Irving did something unusual between two men who met each other daily. He held out his hand: "Muffle up your throat, old chap. Take care of yourself. God bless you!" An hour later, Stoker was summoned from his lodgings to find Irving dead on the floor, his

afford a hotel but rented a cottage. He must have thought himself a failure. Never had he received the recognition he deserved — not even a degree from his old college in Dublin, which honoured Irving and even Vambery.

I should like to imagine that as he limped across Cruden sands with his stout walking-stick, he remembered Count Dracula's snarling cry as he turns on his pursuers in Piccadilly: "You think you have left me without a place to rest, but I have more. My revenge is just begun. I spread it over the centuries and time is on my side."

With the arrival of Dracula's centenary, this should be Stoker's year as well.



Sir Henry Irving, left, and his "victim" Bram Stoker

Kathryn Knight prepares for a hot date

How I set my world on fire

AFTER months of worrying over my single status, my frustrations recently came up with a solution. The friend of a friend, he was to be the answer to my prayers.

He was a stockbroker (decent wage packet), who enjoyed the theatre (suggestion of cultural leanings). He had dark hair and green eyes. "You'll love him," they promised. Initially dubious, I became first interested, then unashamedly excited.

The blind date and I had arranged dinner & *deux* on a Friday night. I saw myself waffling a cigarette with practised mystique and pouting seductively over my meal. Friday arrived, and I was barely able to contain myself. We were to meet at a bar before going on to dinner.

The inauspicious sign that launched the evening should have served as a warning of worse to come. At 7pm, I gilded casually towards the *Times* newsdesk to take my leave. A brief chat about my evening ascertained that the entire desk had a rendezvous at the very same bar at the very same time. With 25 minutes left until showtime, there was no alternative but to try to intercept my man.

A frantic combination of taxi, tube and legwork delivered me to the bar at 7.35pm. The exertion had reduced my carefully combed hair to a torn and sweaty shadow of its former glory, and fleshed my cheeks scarlet with effort. Vainly trying to regain my composure, I realized with horror that it would be difficult



Cary Grant lights up romance — the Hollywood way

to frogmarch my date away as I didn't actually know what he looked like.

Twenty minutes later, I was saved by a dark-haired, green-eyed vision striding my way. There was no time for courtesies. Before you could say, "Mine's a gin and tonic" I had whisked him away towards a cosy French brasserie, babbling about bosses and workmates and "seen enough of them all week".

THINGS were looking up. The lighting was as planned, the food was good. More to the point, he was looking good. By the main course I was imagining myself in yards of bridal chiffon — when a single movement brought an end to the dream. I had casually extracted a cigarette from the packet and was about to strike an elegant match when the box fell on the floor. As I bent to rescue it, my head made contact with the candle on the table. The soft flame flickered over my hair and transformed it into something not unlike *Towering Inferno*.

"Christ," shrieked the date, banging his hand against my forehead in an attempt to put me out. Unsure whether I was bald and/or chargrilled, I made a dash to the ladies for a hasty restoration job. How do you re-enter a room with any dignity under such circumstances? I took the steps in as casual a fashion as I could muster. But it seemed the man of my dreams had undergone a strange change of heart. Muttering something along the lines of "already involved, it'd be great to meet up as friends," he called for the bill within minutes — and we exited into the cold London night and separate taxis. I haven't heard from him since.

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Great lives well told

Magnus Linklater on the best four biographies of last year

Shall we see greatness in 1997? Not just a man or woman of the year, but someone memorable enough to stand the test of time, to qualify, let's say, for a biography, written ten, 100 or even 400 years after their death. The thought is prompted, not by the controversy over the *Today* award, but by the announcement this morning of the winner of the Whitbread Biography of the Year. The shortlist runs from a life of Thomas Cranmer (died 1556) to Samuel Beckett (died 1989), via Queen Caroline (1821) and George Eliot (1880). This disparate collection emerged from a far longer list of 65 books, all published in 1996, and, as one of the exhausted judges who took part in a three-month reading marathon, I can testify to one thing at least: there is no such thing as a short biography.

There is also no such thing as an easy test of what constitutes great life. In each book that caught the attention of the judges, it was the skill and insight of the biographer that proved at least as important as the significance of the subject. No one would claim that Caroline of Brunswick and the scandals that marked her turbulent marriage to George IV could be weighed on the same scale of history as the achievements of Archbishop Cranmer, who helped to forge the Reformation and was martyred for his faith. Nor can one guarantee that future generations will judge *Krapp's Last Tape* with the same measure of enthusiasm as we now accord *The Mill on the Floss*. But in each case the author has wrought something of moment from the various lives, turning biography into history.

This is as it should be. Our views of the past have always been deeply influenced by the chroniclers of famous people. Emerson once wrote: "There is properly no history; only biography," and Disraeli, his exact contemporary, felt the same. "Read no history; nothing but biography, for that is life without theory," he wrote. Boswell's *Life of Johnson*, Lockhart's of Walter Scott, Lyndon Strachey's *Eminent Victorians*, or more recently, Michael Holroyd on Strachey himself, or Richard Ellman on Oscar Wilde, have all presented a picture whose definition is so sharp that it has formed the opinion of a generation, while telling us more of the social history of the period than any number of historical textbooks.

What emerges may not be entirely objective, because no good biographer is ever fully detached from his subject. The process of delving deep into the passionate nature of a human being is ultimately more rewarding than the precise circumstances of his birth, death, marriage or doctoral thesis, and attempting to maintain the balance between both rarely succeeds. "How on earth does one explain mad-

One quality runs through all these books — courage

Rosemary Ashton describes as the most unconventional woman of the Victorian age. Despite the fact that she had rejected her religion and was living in sin, "her natural feeling was a longing to agree as far as possible". Assailed by guilt, and miserable when rejected by conventional society, she was nevertheless unable to ignore the driving forces of her own nature. She became, as Professor Ashton puts it, an "internal exile"; just as Samuel Beckett, for most of his life, was an exile of another kind, straddling the cultures of France and his native Ireland, never quite a part of either, yet always his own man. James Knowlson recounts how Beckett joined the resistance as much because of his disgust for Nazi anti-Semitism as any patriotic feelings towards his adopted country.

Looking back on the books we chose, I realise that one quality runs through all four. It is courage — not just the courage to confront physical danger, but to defy convention, to stick to personal beliefs, to remain true to one's nature, to ignore the easy route of conformity. Whether these alone amount to greatness I doubt. But at a time when principle in public life is all too often sacrificed in the interests of popularity, they make a pretty good start.

With peace a still distant dream, Paul Bew analyses the Unionist endgame in this Parliament

Will the Ulster Unionists hasten the downfall of the John Major Government? There are some Ulster Unionist MPs — notably John Taylor, the deputy leader, and Ken Maginnis, the Fermanagh and S Tyrone MP who give the impression of being keen to do just that. Sour personal relations with leading members of the Government play a key role here, but, more important, is the feeling that the Unionists should gain as much credit as possible with an incoming Blair government. Tony Blair, after all, has done much to reduce Unionist apprehension of a Labour victory.

The answer is that one cannot. And sometimes the evidence to go on is so slight that it is like reconstructing a tyrannosaurus from a single fossilised claw. Diarmuid McCullough, in the introduction to his life of Cranmer, says that in more than 300 letters of Cranmer's which survive, there is only one mention of his wife and children. Yet by the end, what reaches us across 400 years is the human dimension of the subject, the frailty of a man confronted with the terror of martyrdom and his courage at the moment of death.

Defiance would be a more appropriate way of describing the quality that emerges from Flora Fraser's biography of Queen Caroline, whose story parallels that of our own dear Princess of Wales so closely that one has to pinch oneself occasionally to remember that one is reading about the early 19th century rather than something from Nigel Dempster's gossip column. A life of relentless royal bickering is redeemed by the sheer resilience of a woman thrown into a loveless marriage and subjected to endless humiliation by an Establishment intent on destroying her.

Nothing could be further from the deeply serious and troubled life of George Eliot,

Labour policy review had decided to offer Dublin power, as opposed to the current high level of consultation, in Northern Ireland.

The signals being sent five years later are rather different. This is partly a tribute to the modernising spirit of new Labour but it is, above all, a tribute to the change in political discourse effected by the Downing Street declaration of December 1993 and the framework documents of 1995. Unionists dislike many aspects of these documents — signed by the British and Irish Governments — but one thing is clear: they rule out a role for Britain as a persuader for Irish unity. They also lay great emphasis on the need for the agreement of the local parties. New Labour's absolutely wholehearted embrace of the Downing Street declaration logically implies the end of a policy which even hints that Labour might be a persuader for Irish unity.

So, the argument runs, why should

David Trimble's nine Ulster Unionist MPs not make common cause with Labour in the lobbies? In fact, it is not likely to happen. There are still, despite everything, warm relations between some senior Tories and Ulster Unionists. Two of Mr Trimble's parliamentary colleagues, Sir James Molyneaux and Willie Ross, were elected in 1990 as Conservative and Unionist MPs. Both are emotionally pro-Tory; it is difficult to see them bringing down the Government. The very size of Labour's poll lead counts the Ulster Unionists to wait for a moment, which is likely to bring about a Government with a smaller majority. The more that John Hume and Gerry Adams call for an early election, the more Unionists are likely to stay their hand. They no longer expect significant policy movements by this Government either to their advantage or disadvantage; but there is at the margins a certain amount of business to be done.

Mr Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, has a lot riding on the next Westminster election. The Forum election results in Northern Ireland in May 1995, which left his party with 30 seats against the Paisleyite Democratic Unionist Party's 24 seats, was not a great personal triumph. The growing inter-communal bitterness in the province since the end of the IRA ceasefire may be working to the DUP's advantage. Mr Trimble will, however, still hope to gain at least one seat. His recent deal with Sir James Goldsmith should be seen partly in this context. Goldsmith's financial generosity should, at least, assist a better presentation of the Ulster Unionist case in the next few months. Nevertheless, it has left a legacy of irritation within Mr Trimble's own party; even intense Euro-sceptics complain about lack of consultation. Mr Trimble's honeymoon as leader is definitely over. Yet it is worth noting that for all his reputation as an erratic

hardliner, he has skilfully not foreclosed absolutely on the possibility of a negotiated settlement of the Ulster crisis.

But, of course, much here depends on the dialectic of republican-loyalist violence and — while there are clearly restraining forces at work on both sides — the omens here are not good. Mr Adams seems to be determined to avoid any form of republican split at any price, even though the balance of forces within the republican movement no longer sustains the strategy embodied in the 1994-95 peace process. More importantly, Mr Adams may have missed the moment for the one decisive move which could have transformed the situation. This is not the acceptance of the principle that majority consent in Northern Ireland is required before there can be Irish unity — that was always asking the republican movement for too much — but a republican acceptance that war would no longer be waged against this principle.

In more optimistic times a few months ago, Dr Marjorie Mowlam, Labour's spokeswoman on Northern Ireland, in an effort to assist the peace process, argued that the status quo "was not an option". It is beginning to look as if the status quo — direct rule with a green tinge — is the only option.

• Professor Paul Bew is Parnell Fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge

Dancing to the Orange flute

Too late for the Comeback Kid?

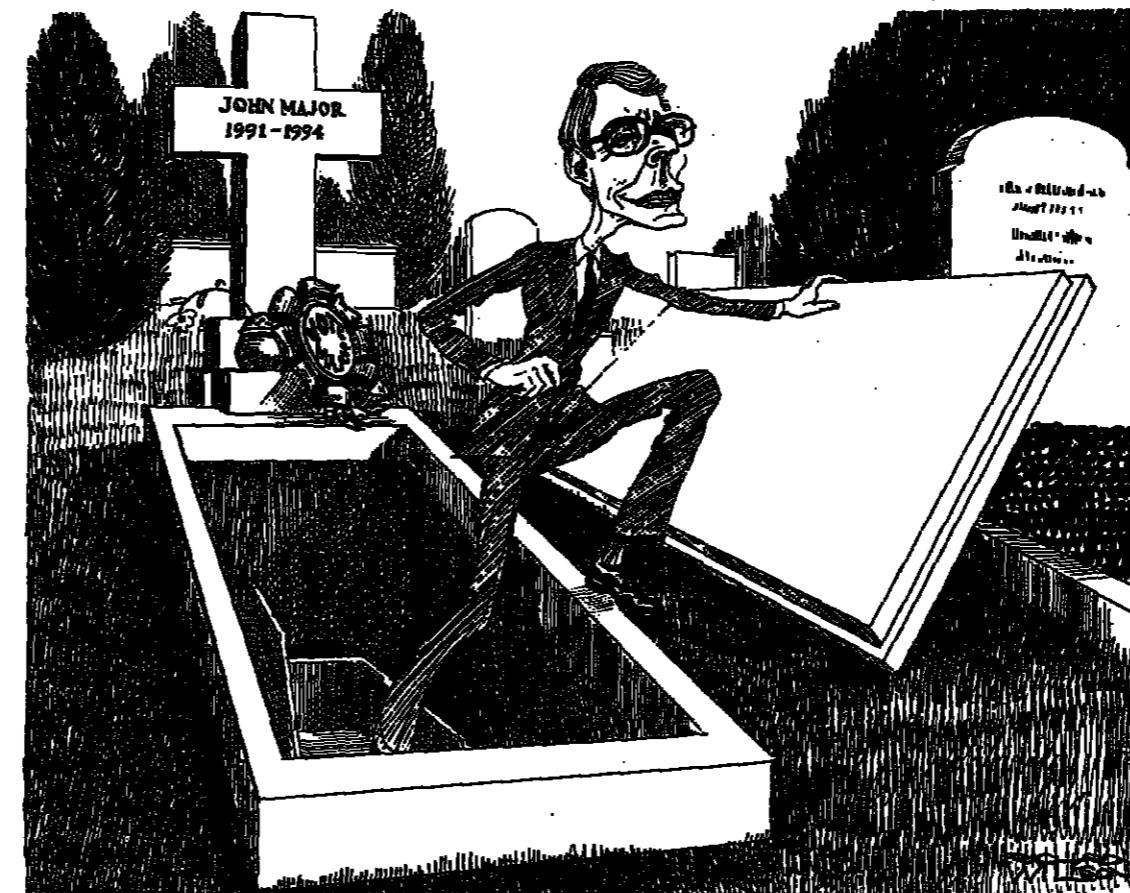
John Major's performance has improved. But it may not be enough to win

There is a case to be made for John Major. I am one of those commentators who has been a disillusioned supporter of his. I wanted him to become Prime Minister after, but only after, Margaret Thatcher had been rejected. I became disillusioned by the errors of his first three years in government, particularly by the loss of control of public expenditure, by the mishandling of the recession, by the commitment to an unsustainable rate for sterling in the exchange-rate mechanism, by the signing of the Maastricht treaty and its brutal whipping through a reluctant Parliament. By 1993 I had come to regard him as a disappointing Prime Minister.

The case for Mr Major now rests on the past three years. They have seen a period of economic recovery, better control of expenditure and a Cabinet shift on Europe. If one rules a line at January 1 1994, and judges him as Prime Minister on his performance after that, his record undeniably looks much better. "Yes, we made a mess of it. Now we're getting it right" may not be much of an election slogan, but it would have some credibility.

If one thinks that his performance was acceptable in the first three years and excellent in the next three — and many Conservatives do think that — there will be no problem in voting for him at the general election. If one thinks that his performance was disappointing in his first three years, but acceptable in the second three, there is still evidence of a learning curve. Prime Ministers have to be trained on the job. We now have an experienced Prime Minister, whom everyone acknowledges to be an honest and likeable man. Why should the electors switch to Tony Blair, who will also learn by making mistakes, some of which could well be as serious as those Mr Major made in 1991 and 1992?

In the election campaign, Mr Major will need to persuade the electorate that this learning curve can continue upwards. If voters think he will be a successful Prime Minister in the future, they may vote to re-elect him, whichever view they take of his past performance. Three election issues are already prominent in the



public mind. The first, which could be an insuperable obstacle however well Mr Major campaigns, is that it is "time for a change". Many Conservative voters themselves accept the force of this argument. After four Parliaments and 18 years, it would be good for democracy to have a Labour government.

This argument is reinforced by the fact that no one under 40 has now voted in a general election which actually produced a Labour government. The Wilson and Callaghan governments left a sour taste in the mouth, but not in the mouths of those who were children when Mrs Thatcher became Prime Minister.

One aspect of this argument will not swing many votes, but it is worrying. I do not think that Mr Blair could survive defeat; I think that old Labour would turn on him, his people and his ideas. That would mean a Labour Party split in 2002, or a Labour government that would try to undo most of the sensible things that have been done since 1979. Yet people will not be voting for the benefit of prosperity. If voters consider that the leadership of Mr Major and the policies of the Conservative Party will be best for themselves and for the country in the last years of the 1990s, they will give the Conservatives another turn in office.

The Conservatives have not dis-

William Rees-Mogg

The other two well-defined, or at least well-discussed, issues are the economy and Europe. I do not recognise the description of the economy as it is given by either party. There was nothing exceptional about the British economy in 1996, but things have been going reasonably well, as they usually do at this stage of a cyclical recovery. Subject to the American recovery, which had started earlier and has gone on longer, this British recovery may have two or three years to run. It is at about the same stage as the recovery of the late 1980s was in 1987. That helped the Conservatives to the election of that year. The 1980s recovery peaked in 1989 and the recession started in 1990.

The Conservatives have not dis-

covered a magic mushroom which

would transform a cyclical recovery into steady non-inflationary growth.

Interest rates will have to rise, and

the sooner the better. Kenneth Clarke

is not the greatest Chancellor since

Neville Chamberlain, or William Gladstone or the younger Pitt. He is a solidly responsible performer with remarkably little reforming zeal — a sound but uninspired Chancellor. On the other hand, the Labour description of Britain's recent economic performance is wholly incredible. At this stage of the cycle, at least, Britain has one of the best economic performances in Europe, which one would not exchange for the German, French, Italian or Spanish performances, with their high costs, high unemployment.

Europe really does illustrate the

learning curve of Prime Ministers.

Mrs Thatcher herself, migh-

ned as she was, took to recognise the

realities of Europe. Mr Major came

into office after Mrs Thatcher had

been turned out on the European

issue, and believed that an under-

standing with Germany could take

Britain to the heart of Europe. It did

not much. Mr Blair does not have

as many *Euro-illusions* as Gordon

Brown, but a Labour government

would probably a softer option for

the European federalists, as Klaus

Kinkel expects. My own view is that

Mr Blair would become more realis-

tic about Europe within months, but

those would be dangerous months,

just as Mr Major's first months were.

So far, the case for Mr Major looks

British politics is not yet ready for the privatisation of health and education which may become inevitable in the first decade of the next century. The Conservatives are not foolish enough to propose something still so unacceptable. The public may believe that Labour can solve the conundrum of more money for health and education without raising taxes. They know the Conservatives cannot.

The final challenge to Mr Major's

electoral prospect is Mr Blair. He has

done what Richard Nixon achieved

with his southern strategy. He has

created a new coalition; he has

managed to hold on to old Labour

while attracting "progressive" people

of all parties and none. Even 25 years ago polls showed that a coalition of the progressive centre would have a large majority. David Owen came close to achieving that in the 1980s.

But his Liberal base was too narrow, and perhaps too goofy.

Tony Blair has the solid Labour

base, which is at least twice as large,

and he has certainly captured the

floating progressives. The new Labour coalition of the progressive centre

may well have a natural majority, whatever John Major now does.

More ritz



The Sultan of Brunei and his wives favouring St Moritz

THE PRINCE of Wales may have chosen Klosters with Tiggy and Tara again this year. Roger Moore may remain loyal to Gstaad — but the Sultan of Brunei favours St Moritz as his winter playground. The world's richest man has just rented the former Shah of Iran's old villa in the glitzy resort, where real fur and designer salopettes are *de rigueur*. The head of the tiny but fabulously rich petroleum kingdom is spending a phenomenal sum refurbishing the villa which was built at the beginning of the century and bought by the Shah of Iran, Reza Pahlavi, in 1967.

Hardly your average chalet, the

Snowed under

SOUNDS of Mrs Mop revving up her vacuum cleaner backstage at Sadler's Wells (now based at the Peacock Theatre) in preparation for the arrival of Slava Polunin's *Snowshow* later this month. The high point of Polunin's surreal performance is an artificial snow storm that leaves the audience knee-deep in thousands of tiny scraps of paper. Everyone agrees the effect is magical, except of course the unfortunate who spends three hours sweeping up the stalls daily.

Game for it

PUNDITS will be playing a new board game this year. General

Election, invented by Bryan Green — a gentilman whose regular occupation is making drystone walls — is about to be launched. Players move backwards and forwards until the first player past the post is declared Prime Minister.

Square 46 reads: "You have to sack your glitz and gloss over midway through the campaign"; a reference to the turbulent egos in political advertising. Square 25 reads: "The tabloid press prints revelations and allegations about the private lives of other party lead-

ers. Move other party leaders back two spaces." Green has sent a complimentary copy to John Major, who wrote back saying he hoped to avoid the "snakes" in the game.

Girl talk

ON THE eve of the first anniversary of François Mitterrand's death, a new biography suggests that he was true to himself to the last. The journalist Jean-Marc Benoist was present at Mitterrand's last supper with family and friends on New Year's Eve 1995, eight days before the President died. Was the great man concerned about European Union or unemployment in France? Not quite. His conversation, Benoist reports, turned largely on Julia Roberts and a dinner he had once had with her.

"That was a big ambition," Mitterrand said. "And by the way, those legs in *Pretty Woman*; they were certainly her legs, weren't they?"

King fung

AMONSTER truffle was sacrificed at a special New Year's Eve dinner in Hong Kong for 120 gourmets. The 20oz Italian fungus was bought for HK\$40,000 (about £3,000) by a local hotel, outbidding chefs in Milan, New York, Paris and Tokyo. "It is wonderful to find this, it is like a dinosaur egg from *Jurassic Park*," said Mario Carnevali, chef at the Grand Stamford Harbour View Hotel. "Santa Claus brought me this truffle because I have been a good chef."



A SHOT AT PEACE

Hebron has become a metaphor for Arab-Israeli confrontation

For a dreadful instant in Hebron yesterday Noam Friedman, the off-duty Israeli conscript who emptied the magazine of his machinegun into the crowded marketplace, stood as symbol for all the tensions and hatreds that form the backdrop to the protracted renegotiation of Israel's promised withdrawal from most of this West Bank city. The ensuing panic was not confined to Friedman's Palestinian targets, seven of whom were wounded. Before he was overpowered, the immediate reaction of police and soldiers, guarding the nearby Jewish enclave in the city's heart, which has been recently been targeted by petrol-bombers, was to open fire in the mistaken belief that this was a Palestinian attack.

This could all too easily have escalated into a repeat of September's dreadful gun battles in Jerusalem. The speed with which calm was restored, thanks to improved cooperation between the Israeli military and the Palestinian police, is encouraging proof that both sides have learnt from that disaster — and that the lesson has been absorbed not by those charged with keeping order, but by their political masters.

Just as Yassir Arafat was quick to telephone Binyamin Netanyahu early last month, to condemn the murder of a woman and her son at the Beit El settlement, so Mr Netanyahu immediately contacted Mr Arafat, and followed through by sternly and publicly insisting that no act of violence would stand in the way of a Hebron deal. Better still, Mr Netanyahu — who for months has appeared to be in no hurry to agree fresh terms for a redeployment that he used bitterly to oppose — is now insisting that delay can only "provoke and create conditions" for this sort of atrocity.

Friedman's attempt to abort the Hebron deal by violence may thus have the opposite effect, spurring the two sides to a final negotiating effort. But it is a reminder to

Netanyahu of the forces he has to control within his own broad governing coalition. Last week, a group of radical rabbis called on Israeli soldiers to disobey orders to withdraw from Hebron. One of these, Rabbi Eliezer Waldmann, runs a religious school for youths serving in the army.

To a deeply religious young conscript such as Friedman, their words may have inspired his crime; inflammatory edicts issued under the cover of religion should be as offensive to a law-abiding country as the bombs of Palestinian terrorism. Friedman has been denounced even by the militant Jewish Council of Settlements, which opposes further withdrawals from the biblical lands of ancient Israel; but his act is an outgrowth of their uniting of religious Judaism with territorial Friedmanism. Mr Netanyahu won a democratic mandate last May to place greater stress on Israel's security as he proceeds to implement the Oslo peace process. He was not elected to put it permanently on ice; yet he will make little headway without confronting both the extreme religious right and those in Likud who adhere to the party's long-held doctrine that the primordial biblical lands cannot and must not be traded for peace.

Mr Ashworth exempts from his would-be Orwellian regime those business people who risk all their assets — as "most professionals are (rightly) compelled to do". However, professionals (including those in his own profession) take our insurance cover for such risks and thereby keep their personal assets protected.

Those who are frightened that their insurance cover will not suffice commonly put their personal assets into family trusts or transfer them to their spouses. In the case of the international accountancy firms, they may try to transfer their businesses to offshore limited liability partnerships.

Requiring people to talk in police cells has a wholly undignified track record where it has been practised. The UK consistently loses human-rights cases before the European courts. It will be a tragedy if the protection of our basic human rights is abandoned by our judiciary and senior lawyers and has to be left to Europe to enforce.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MINNS (Chairman),
MM & K Limited (financial advisors),
1 Bengal Court, Birch Lane, EC2.
December 30.

TRUMAN AND MARSHALL

Fifty years ago: Americans chose global leadership. What now?

A set of dramatic decisions taken in 1947 confirmed the onset of the Cold War. With them came the transformation of the United States into an internationalist superpower. Two men in particular offered the leadership necessary to mobilise a great nation. On March 12, 1947, President Truman stood before a Republican-led Congress and appealed for military aid for Greece and Turkey. He went beyond that request to argue: "I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation by armed minorities or by outside pressures."

Two months earlier, Truman had bravely appointed General George C. Marshall, a man whose popularity and prestige far outranked his own, as Secretary of State. On June 5, 1947, Marshall used a Commencement Address at Harvard University to outline a European Recovery Programme. This unprecedented plan for generous economic assistance would save a continent and bear Marshall's name. The intellectual reasoning behind Washington's new strategy was contained in a justly celebrated anonymous article in the journal *Foreign Affairs* that same year. It came from the pen of George Kennan, a senior State Department official. Totalitarianism could, he argued, be checked and then defeated by "long-term, patient but firm and vigilant containment". The institutional consequences were recognised in the creation by the US Congress of the Department of Defense, the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency. With the birth of Nato two years later, all the essential elements that would guide the democracies through the Cold War had been put in place. The wisdom shown in 1947 was

rewarded, four decades later, by the collapse of the Soviet empire.

Compared with the boldness shown in 1947, the response of Western nations to the end of the Cold War has been puny. That has been particularly true of the Clinton Administration, whose sole institutional innovation — the National Economic Council — exists to use international relations for short-term economic and trade advantage. Nato, meanwhile, is blundering towards a hasty and ill-conceived expansion.

George Bush perceived the need for a New World Order after the Gulf War but never quite managed to explain exactly what this ought to be or to entail. Uncertainty has deepened since he left the White House. For Bill Clinton and most Americans, foreign policy now represents a vast employment promotion exercise. The inconsistencies in Bob Dole's approach to external questions in the last presidential campaign reflected a wider, and disturbing, breakdown of consensus in Republican ranks. This would matter less if others, notably in Europe, were capable of extending their horizons to meet the new challenges. In reality, the grand language of federalism and integration masks an introspection, bordering on insularity, and a frequent preference for protectionism.

Fifty years ago there was an obvious threat that permitted Truman and Marshall to reconstruct American foreign policy. But there was also the political will to ignore the electorally expedient circumstances may be different today, but the need for intelligent, principled American leadership is no less pressing. If Mr Clinton wishes to give proof of that in his second term, a rethink of Nato's expansion would be a good starting point.

Plenty of sites exist north of Watford for a design to challenge that of Tokyo, and plenty of entrepreneurs to fund it. The UK has some of the best architects and engineers in the world. They would welcome the challenge.

May we propose a new year's resolution for the commission? To grasp the nettle and start again.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS A. H. STACEY,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.

BROUGHT TO BOOK

Computer can never replace the pleasure of the printed page

"A good book is the best of friends, the same today and for ever." How often has this 19th-century commonplace been inscribed over public libraries or written on the flyleaves of presentation volumes. And how gleefully have futurologists pronounced it dead, swept away by the forward march of the computer and the replacement of books by CD-Rom. Martin Tupper, who coined the phrase, has the last laugh, however: a survey by the Policy Studies Institute shows that people are buying more books, and that the fashion for transferring the written word to plastic disks has had little impact on the market for old-fashioned printed books.

Almost half those asked said they were currently reading a book for pleasure, a proportion barely changed in the last six years. People spent more time reading than they did indulging in the two other British obsessions, gardening and DIY. Some 30 per cent of those surveyed had bought 16 or more books in the past year, compared to 28 per cent in 1989. And although almost a third of British households now own a computer, only a fraction have the "multi-media capacity to run CD-Roms. Of those that did, most used it for work and half for playing games; a quarter used CD-Roms for reference and very few for general reading.

The reason should be obvious to all those who have touted computer literacy as the road to the future. They have only to reflect

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XX Telephone 0171-732 5000

Curbing directors' right to silence

From Mr A. S. Minns

Sir, Mr Piers Ashworth, QC, in what strikes me as an attack on the right of us all to remain silent when accused (letter, December 27), believes that those who trade with the benefit of limited liability should be stripped of the common-law privilege against self-incrimination. He argues that because a company is an "artificial body" created by statute a director should not expect the same human rights as everyone else.

May I remind Mr Ashworth that the principal fiduciary duties on a director to behave with probity are imposed by the common law. Since directors face the obligations, it is not illogical that they should also receive the protection of the common law.

Mr Ashworth exempts from his would-be Orwellian regime those business people who risk all their assets — as "most professionals are (rightly) compelled to do". However, professionals (including those in his own profession) take our insurance cover for such risks and thereby keep their personal assets protected.

Those who are frightened that their insurance cover will not suffice commonly put their personal assets into family trusts or transfer them to their spouses. In the case of the international accountancy firms, they may try to transfer their businesses to offshore limited liability partnerships.

Requiring people to talk in police cells has a wholly undignified track record where it has been practised. The UK consistently loses human-rights cases before the European courts. It will be a tragedy if the protection of our basic human rights is abandoned by our judiciary and senior lawyers and has to be left to Europe to enforce.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MINNS (Chairman),
MM & K Limited (financial advisors),
1 Bengal Court, Birch Lane, EC2.
December 30.

Academy cash crisis

From Mr Nicholas A. H. Stacey

Sir, Companies have for long been exhorted to elect non-executive directors to their boards. The proved advantage of such "outsiders" is their independence and wealth of experience gathered elsewhere.

The symbiosis of these two qualities gives non-executives a wide perspective; their effectiveness, if well chosen, can be seminal. One may ask why such a good example of the corporate world in mingling insiders with outsiders in the boardroom has not been followed more closely by professional associations.

The recently surfaced sad confusion about money at the Royal Academy of Arts — running into deficit and failing to publish annual accounts for over a decade (letters, December 13, 23) — could have been avoided had the Academicians recruited among their members two or three colleagues with commercial experience.

Some professional bodies, such as accountants and lawyers, have members with considerable business experience on their governing bodies; but, I guess, numerous professional societies, associations and institutions in the arts and sciences are devoid of what many now consider as necessary commercial nous for running an organisation. The remedy is at hand.

Yours sincerely,
NICHOLAS A. H. STACEY,
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1.

Millennium challenge

From Mr and Mrs Ian Hall

Sir, We are struck by the contrast between the Tokyo International Forum (Arts, December 30) and the feeble attempts to produce a building in the UK to mark the millennium. Why does the Millennium Commission persist with the polluted site near London, the preparation costs of which must equal those of the buildings themselves. Who can blame the private sector for its reluctance to back such a project?

Plenty of sites exist north of Watford for a design to challenge that of Tokyo, and plenty of entrepreneurs to fund it. The UK has some of the best architects and engineers in the world. They would welcome the challenge.

May we propose a new year's resolution for the commission? To grasp the nettle and start again.

Yours faithfully,
IAN HALL,
(Architects (retired)),
The Cottage, Lower Snowden,
Bunhill Green, South Staffordshire.

The Times and Iran

From Mr Mohammad Safaei

Sir, Reading your report and leading article (December 16) on US preparations for military strikes against Iran, I cannot help feeling that *The Times* is intent on creating tension in the Persian Gulf region.

May I reiterate what has been declared on numerous occasions, that Iran condemns all terrorist actions, regardless of the motive, time, place and the victims involved.

During the last year, *The Times* has reported a number of accusations against Iran — for instance on the explosion in Jeddah and the crash of a

Moral excellence in Catholic schools

From the Reverend Leo Chamberlain, OSB, Headmaster of Ampleforth College

Sir, William Rees Mogg's friendly article of December 25, "Religious schools against the world" (letters, December 30), pursues important questions. But the dividing line between Ampleforth as a Catholic school, and others is not, as he suggests, simply over the teaching of morality based on religion as against a moral relativism, important though

are committed, and to our educational effort.

There is no contradiction between religion and academic excellence. Theology should be taught to the same intellectual level as other subjects, and with a priority in the timetable. At many schools, and especially in the over-crowded GCSE years, it is abandoned.

Catholic schools must look to the highest academic standards; students need the best examination results they can get. In Catholic schools with a wide range of ability, the ablest do brilliantly and others frequently do better than they ever imagined possible.

Yours etc.
LEO CHAMBERLAIN,
Headmaster,
Ampleforth College, York,
December 30.

From Mr R. H. A. Brodhurst

Sir, I had the considerable privilege of teaching at Ampleforth from 1985 to 1990. As an Anglican my initial pre-conceptions and doubts were swept aside by the faith of the whole community, both Abbey and school. Their holistic approach is surely at the heart of all the best schools, both maintained and independent Catholic and Anglican.

Education which concentrates on exam-passing is not education. All schools should prepare their pupils for life by giving them a firm foundation based on religious morality. To fail to do so is to fail to educate our charges.

Yours sincerely,
R. H. A. BRODHURST,
The Mill, Stanford Dingley,
Reading, Berkshire,
December 30.

Slang as origin of the gift of tongues

From Mr Peter Stockill

Sir, Jesse Jackson does a disservice to African Americans by condemning black American English or Ebonics (report, December 24). African Americans have their own musical culture, from blues to rap. Now they can be seen as having their own language. They have enriched music and now they are enriching language.

Language is central to a people's notion of self-worth. The vociferous campaigning by members of the Welsh Language Society is an indication of how language is perceived as a stepping-stone to nationhood.

Why shouldn't African American slang be seen as an incipient new language? Perhaps "slang" is a necessary precursor to a new language, just as Afrikaans originated as an informal version of Dutch. Pidgin English and Creole are valid languages in their own right, giving racial groups a sense of dignity.

English is a hybrid language, drawing upon the cultures of people who have come to these islands. American English has been enriched by Spanish-speaking and Irish people, among many others. People from Africa settled in America, albeit unwillingly, long before the waves of 19th-century European immigration.

Yours sincerely,
PETER STOCKILL
6 Brunner House,
Langridge Crescent,
Berwick Hills, Middlesbrough,
December 27.

Britain's diverse faiths

From Mr Anil Savani

Sir, Mr Karim Chowdhury (letter, December 30) on the one hand suggests that tolerance means "respecting the rights of others to practise their ways" and on the other hand congratulates the outrageous behaviour of a teacher who reduced children performing in a school carol concert to tears.

What enrages me is the insistence of some Muslims to be "obstinate" in pursuing practices which are offensive to the majority of people in countries where they are in a minority. In countries such as Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, the appalling intolerance and persecution of non-Muslim minorities by the State does not prompt criticism or invite pleas for respecting the rights of others from the likes of Mr Chowdhury.

Contrast this to the tolerance shown by Hindus, both here and in India — a country which has been over backwards and even modified its constitution to accommodate the special religious and legal requirements of the Muslim tradition.

Yours etc.
ANIL SAVANI,
38 Morley Crescent West,
Stanmore, Middlesex,
December 30.

From Mr R. K. Holland

Sir, Mr Chowdhury is to be congratulated on his proud, understated comments on "contamination" and "practices of falsehood and lies" in defence of his faith.

He has surely shown himself to be a true believer and can be seen to be upholding Islam's modern image in its regard for other faiths and the world in general. God Bless Us, Every One!

Yours sincerely,
R. K. HOLLAND,
17 Hobart Road,
Dewsbury, West Yorkshire,
December 30.

Yesterday's men

From Mr Robert Ellerby

Sir, Your leader *Yesterday*, "A hard day's knight", credited *Nowhere Man* and *Tomorrow Never Knows* to Sir Paul McCartney. Both songs came from the pen of John Lennon, as *Even Your Mother Should Know*.

All My Loving.

ROBERT ELLERBY,
27 Manor Road,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

January 1.

Mayan prediction

From Dr Georges Ware

Sir, My wife has just telephoned me to say that the world is to end on December 23 in the year 2012.

"How do you know?" I asked. "Hath God spoken?" "Not necessarily," she replied, "but it's in *The Times* today."

Yours faithfully,
GEORGES WARE,
85 Cranbrook Road, Redland, Bristol.

December 23.

Fully furnished

From Mr J. M. C. Clark-Maxwell

Sir, Let us hope that Mr Ewelegh's confusion about *mensa* (letter, January 1) is not widespread. How many old maids may have been disappointed merely because, when asked to conjugate, they declined?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CL

SOCIAL NEWS

The Princess Royal will attend the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association Annual Awards Dinner at the Churchill Inter-Continental, London W1, on Tuesday, January 7.

Birthdays today

Mr David Bailey, photographer, 59; Mr N.H. Baring, chairman, Commercial Union Assurance, 63; Sir Richard Bayliss, former Physician to the Queen, 80; Mr Leopold Brook, former chairman, Simon Engineering, 85; Mr Christopher Campbell, chairman, British Shipbuilding, 61; Duke of Devonshire, KG, 77; Professor Sir Kingsley Durham, FRS, geologist, 87; Mr Walter Harrison, former MP, 76; Miss Hilary Heffron, QC, 48; Sir Michael Hirst, former MP, 51; Mr Doug McAvoy, trade unionist, 58; Mr Piers Merchant, MP, 46; Sir Bruce Partral, governor, Bank of Scotland, 59; Sir Charles Reece, former group research and technology director, ICI, 70; Mr Edmund de Rothschild, former chairman, N.M. Rothschild and Sons, 81; the Earl of St Germans, Sir Michael Sir Ernest Sidey, 84; Sir Keith Thomas, President, British Academy, 64; Sir Michael Tippett, OM, CH, composer, 92; Dame Rachel Waterhouse, former chairman, Consumers' Association, 74; Sir Andrew Wood, diplomat, 57; the Right Rev Kenneth Woolcombe, former Bishop of Oxford, 73.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Thomas Yalden, poet, Oxford, 1669; James Wolfe, general and conqueror of Quebec, Westerham, Kent, 1727; Gilbert Murray, scholar, Sydney, New South Wales, 1866; Count Folke Bernadotte, UN mediator, Stockholm, 1895; Isaac Asimov, science fiction writer, Petrovitch in the Smolensk district of Russia 1920.

DEATHS: Ovid, poet, Tomi, on the Black Sea, AD17; Johann Kaspar Lavater, physiognomist and poet, Zurich, 1801; Sir George Biddell Airy, Astronomer Royal 1836-81; Alnwick, Northumberland, 1892; Friedrich Wilhelm IV, King of Prussia, 1861; Leon Philippe Teisserenc de Bort, meteorologist, Cannes, 1913; Sir Edward Tyler, anthropologist, Wellington, Somerset, 1917; Eleanor Rathbone, social reformer, London, 1946; Edna May, actress, 1948; Princess Alice Countess of Athlone, 1981.

Sir Joshua Reynolds became the first president of the Royal Academy, which opened this day, 1769.

The Soviets launched *Luna 1*, the first unmanned space rocket to pass close to the Moon, 1959.

Sixty six people were killed when a barrier collapsed at Ibrox Park football ground, Glasgow, 1971.

Alan Beresford Cook

A memorial service for Alan Beresford Cook, Surmiser of St Paul's School 1952-64, will be held in the Chapel at St Paul's School, Lonsdale Road, Barnes, at 6.30pm on Thursday, January 16, 1997. Former pupils and colleagues are welcome.

Forthcoming marriages

Captain the Hon A.P. Perry and Miss S.E. Wartnaby

The engagement is announced between Captain Adrian Perry, The Light Dragoons, son of the Earl and Countess of Limerick, West Hants, Sussex, and Suzanne, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wartnaby, of Leek Wootton, Warwickshire.

Mr R.G. Brand and Miss K. Brand

The engagement is announced between Gordon, second son of Mr and Mrs Brian Ring, of Bloomsbury, and Charlotte, elder daughter of Mr Michael and the Hon Mrs Brand, of Little Venice, London.

Mr S.W.N. Fraser and Miss H.K. Macpherson

The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Major and Mrs Peter Fraser, of Baughurst, Hampshire, and Hannah, daughter of Mr Colin Macpherson, of Ashbury, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Mary Macpherson, of South Cerney, Gloucestershire.

Mr C.H. Lydiard-Wilson and Miss T.E. Lumley-Frank

The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.H. Lydiard-Wilson, of Hollowell, Northamptonshire, and Tessa, elder daughter of Mr Anthony Lumley-Frank and Mrs Caroline Lumley-Frank, of London.

Mr R.A. Martin and Miss D.G.M. Jarrold

The engagement is announced between Richard, son of the late Mr Dennis Martin and of Mrs Cherry Martin, of Stapleford, Taunton, and Michelle, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Jarrold, of Cringleford, Norwich.

Mr C.P. Moore and Miss C.P. Dolan

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Professor and Mrs Peter G. Moore, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs William R. Dolan, of New Canaan, Connecticut.

Mr R.W. Palmer and Miss N.J.A. Kopanski

The engagement is announced between Rupert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Palmer, of Wetherby, North Yorkshire, and Nicola, youngest daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs Tadek Kopanski, of Admington, Warwickshire.

Mr D.H. Spriddell and Miss S.J. Ley-Wilson

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Spriddell, of Moor Park, Middlesex, and Sasha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Christopher Ley-Wilson, of East Grinstead, West Sussex.

Latest wills

Maria Belak of Radlett, Hertfordshire, left £922,930 net.

Isabel Alderson, of Harrogate, North Yorkshire, left £656,100 net.

She left £1,500 to Yorkshire Cancer Research and £100 to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

James Kay of Horsbrough, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, left £916,377 net.

He left £5,000 to the RNLI.

William Stanier, of Lyme Green, Macclesfield, Cheshire, left £635,143.

He left his residuary estate between the Royal National Orthopaedic Society, NSPCC, Age UK, Distress, Barnardo's Association for the Blind, the Royal Society for the Research into Crippling Diseases, YMCA, Langley Methodist Church, Methodist Homes for the Aged and the Cheshire Hopital.

Edith Eileen Paston of Copse Meadow, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire, left £1,110,484 net.

Roy Charles Parish of Solihull, West Midlands, left £625,539 net.

John Thorne Scott of Upton Warren, nr Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcester, left £591,694 net.

Roy Charles Parish of Solihull, West Midlands, left £625,539 net.

Eugenie Beatrice Kropacy, of Lymington, Hampshire, left £828,703 net.



Bob Palmer with some of his water buffalo; demand for their milk and cheese has outstripped supply

Buffalo roam on English fields

WATER buffalo descended from animals that once roamed the plains of India are grazing English fields in a bold dairy farming venture that has already created one prize-winning cheese (Michael Hornsby writes).

Bob Palmer and his wife Nicola began importing the cattle from Romania and Italy five years ago after buying a 14-acre farm at Idicote in Warwickshire. They started with 12 animals and now have a herd of 130.

Although the Palmers have sold some of their stock to other farms, theirs is still the only commercial water buffalo herd in Britain, with an annual milk output of

over 200,000 litres. The couple previously kept Jersey cows on a smallholding but were hampered by the cost of having to lease milk quota.

"The great attraction of buffalo is that they are not covered by the European Union's quota system," Mr Palmer said. "The only limits on how much milk you can produce are the capacity of your cows and the number of customers

willing to buy it. At the moment we cannot meet demand." Mr Palmer began by processing his own milk to produce mozzarella cheese, the main reason why buffalo are so prized in Italy. He has now contracted out cheese-making to two dairies.

One of them makes yoghurt and mozzarella. The other has produced a hard cheese that won a gold medal as the best new product of 1996 in the British Cheese Awards. "We are also exploring the market for buffalo meat," Mr Palmer said. "It is low in cholesterol and saturated fats and no buffalo in the world has ever been affected by BSE."

School boxing fights back from ropes

BY DAVID CHARTER
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A NEW year campaign to revive boxing in schools is seeking to recruit boys and girls aged eight to 13. It aims to rescue the sport from terminal decline.

The Kids Gloves Scheme will market boxing as a fun activity but the Schools Amateur Boxing Association's four-year plan also aims to encourage pupils to take up the sport competitively.

Sponsors are being sought to send schools a playground game which teaches basic boxing skills. It involves one child defending a small circle against another trying to

touch his shirt or cap. Boxing has virtually disappeared from schools in recent years. In the 1950s more than 50,000 took part in national schoolboy boxing championships compared with 1,500 in the 1990s. But the campaign's promoters believe John Major's support for youth sport will help them. Ian Sproat, the Sports Minister, has also spoken up for boxing.

Promotional material for the campaign will market amateur boxing as a safe sport. It will contrast the one death in recent years, of a 15-year-old in 1987, with "over 400 fatalities" in the swimming pool. The proposals conclude: "Unquestionably, to

force anyone into boxing would be wrong, but to take that opportunity away from any individual would be equally and morally wrong."

However, the campaign will face determined opposition from the British Medical Association, which wants a total ban on boxing. A spokeswoman for the BMA said: "You would have to expect that this would be encouraging people

to take up boxing as a contact sport. We would be very worried about that. This seems to be flying in the face of most people realising that boxing does cause brain damage."

However, the boxing authorities believe a mini-ver-

sion of boxing could become as successful as other children's versions of popular sports such as Mini-Rugby, Kwik-Cricket and Short tennis.

They have devised Ticklebox, a game for eight to 12-year-olds, where one child stands in a small circle wearing a cap, with a larger circle marking a no-go area around him or her.

The aim of the game is to "touch the defender on the traditional target areas, that is, the front of the T-shirt or on the Ticklebox cap," according to the instructions. Points are awarded to the defender for every parry and the attacker for successful touches.

Replica Endeavour sets sail for berth in Cook exhibition

BY JOHN SHAW

A REPLICA of Captain James Cook's ship the *Endeavour* is preparing for the final leg of an historic voyage from Australia to Britain.

The 397-tonne vessel is due to reach London on March 28 after a 115-day voyage from Fremantle, Western Australia. The vessel is at present in South Africa where the crew spent Christmas. She leaves Cape Town on January 13.

The *Endeavour* will be the centrepiece of an exhibition at the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, when she reaches Britain. It will be the centrepiece of Cook's first great voyage of exploration and discovery in the Pacific which began in August 1768 and lasted three years.

His craft was a three-masted collier built at Whitby, North Yorkshire, in 1768. Solidly constructed, flat-bottomed and with ample storage in the hull, she was slow but sturdy and the ideal vessel for his expedition.

The aim of the voyage was to observe the passage of Venus over the disk of the Sun from Tahiti and then to search for a "Great Southern Continent" beyond Tahiti.

The *Endeavour* was the first ship to determine longitude accurately at sea, using recently published nautical tables and lunar sights. She was also the first ship to make such a long voyage without losing a man to scurvy.

Cook reached New Zealand in 1770. He charted the north and south islands completely before continuing west and sighting the coast of Australia. He anchored in Botany Bay. His charts are so accurate they can still be used today.

It was the first of three voyages to the Pacific which ended in his death when he was stabbed by natives on Hawaii in February 1779.

The main differences between the original vessel and the replica are in the timber and metal fittings and the use of man-made materials on the masts, rigging and the sails.

Instead of the traditional elm, oak or spruce, the hull is built mainly of jarrah, a native Australian hardwood. But the vessel was built to the same specification as the original, using plans held at the museum. The *Endeavour* will be open to the public from March 28 to April 13 before beginning a tour of 14 British ports and sailing on to France, Canada and the United States.

Six young British sailors are on the ship. Anna Rothwell, 18, from Ilfracombe, Devon, Jeremy Chapman, 21, of Poole, Dorset, and Alison O'Neill, 27, of Shrewsbury, sailed from Australia to South Africa.

Karl Johnson, 18, from Whitchurch, Cumbria, Bennett, 23, from Edinburgh and Andrew Webb, 28, of Harwich, Essex are on the *Endeavour* to London leg. They are among sailors from several nations taking berths to support the 56 professional crewmen handling the ship. People with sailing experience can accompany individual legs of the voyage round Britain by sailing direct to the museum.

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Karl Johnson, 18, from Whitchurch, Cumbria, Bennett, 23, from Edinburgh and Andrew Webb

OBITUARIES

GENERAL SIR IAN RICHES

General Sir Ian Riches
KCB, DSO,
Commandant General
Royal Marines, 1959-62,
died on December 23
aged 88. He was born on
September 27, 1908.

Ian Riches was awarded his DSO for his contribution to attacks against the left flank of Marshal Kesselring's defences south of the Po Valley during the final phase of the Second World War in Italy.

In the winter of 1944-45 Riches's commando, 43 Commando, Royal Marines, had just come from harassing the 30,000 men of the German XXI Mountain Corps among the freezing highlands of Yugoslavia. When a British presence ceased to be welcome to Tito's Communist partisans, 43 Commando was ejected and subsequently redeployed to the wet and bleak marshes around Lake Comacchio near the Italian coast just north of Ravenna. With other commando units, Riches and his men fought a bitter and difficult battle throughout April 2 and 3, 1945, with little natural cover to help their advances across minefields towards well-prepared German positions.

In this action, for his desperate courage in single-handedly storming German machine-gun positions, the Royal Marines' tenth Victoria Cross was posthumously awarded to Colonel Thomas Hunter of 43 Commando, the only Marine VC of the Second World War. The objective of drawing Kesselring's reserves away from a thrust elsewhere was achieved.

Ian Harry Riches was commissioned into the Royal Marines in 1927. After training, he joined the battleship Queen Elizabeth, flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet, where smart guards of honour and crisp ceremonial characterised the daily routine.

In 1938, having specialised in signals, he was signals officer of the mobile naval base deployed to Alexandria during the Abyssinian crisis. At this time he also qualified



as an interpreter in French and Spanish.

By the outbreak of the war, Riches had been promoted to captain and had been selected for the junior war staff course at Camberley staff college. On completion, he was appointed brigade major of the newly formed 101 Royal Marines Brigade which in September 1940 was involved in the abortive attempt to gain a West African foothold for de Gaulle at Dakar.

Having graduated from the senior staff course at Camberley, Riches served from 1942 in a series of

headquarters' appointments with the Royal Marine Division and at the Admiralty until late 1944, when he was dispatched to take command of 43 Commando in the Balkans.

After the war he commanded the Signal School and then 42 Commando based at Malta. On April 28, 1948, four hours after the order to move, his Commando was on its way to the Middle East strategic reserve in the Canal Zone.

After a short spell in Malta

Riches and 42 Commando were sent to Hong Kong in the local defence and internal security role. Relieved in 1950, he was employed in increas-

Terrorism by the Irgun group, including attacks on British troops and police, was now adding to the well-judged political pressure on Britain exercised worldwide but particularly in America — leading to the acceleration of a messy and dangerous withdrawal process. 42 Commando ended up as part of the Middle East strategic reserve in the Canal Zone.

After a short spell in Malta Riches and 42 Commando were sent to Hong Kong in the local defence and internal security role. Relieved in 1950, he was employed in increas-

ingly significant operational and staff posts, including command of 3 Commando Brigade in the Canal Zone and Malta, until promoted major-general in charge of Portsmouth Group Royal Marines in 1957.

In February 1959 he was promoted lieutenant-general and appointed Commandant General Royal Marines. At the Suez invasion of 1956, helicopter-borne assaults over the beach had been used for the first time, and with great success. This operational concept was further developed during Riches's time as Commandant General. The light fleet carriers *Bulwark* and *Albion* were converted and dedicated to the Commando role and much of the argument revolved around how to maintain a Commando's physical fitness and military efficiency when embarked and deployed abroad.

Riches was adamant that there should be provision for permanent shore-based accommodation and training areas and that two Commandos should be available to be rotated through the operational and training cycle. His representations bore fruit when 40 Commando and the Brigade HQ were moved to Singapore to be available to be embarked in whichever aircraft carrier was deployed East of Suez. In July 1961, when Iraq (setting the pattern for the future) made its first move against Kuwait, the threat of aggression saw the *Bulwark* with 42 Commando and 16 Whirlwind helicopters spearheading the British deterrent forces in exactly the manner envisaged by Riches and his staff.

Ian Riches was noted for his courtesy, generosity and kindness. Appointed KCB in 1960, he was promoted general in 1961 and retired in 1962. In retirement, Riches was a regional director of civil defence and representative colonel commandant of the Royal Marines until 1968.

He is survived by his wife Winifred, daughter of Admiral Sir Geoffrey Layton, and by CBE, 5th Baron Grey of Codnor, died on December 23 aged 93. He was born on February 10, 1903.

LORD GREY OF CODNOR

Charles Cornwall-Legh,
CBE, 5th Baron Grey of
Codnor, died on December 23 aged 93. He was born on February 10, 1903.

THE circumstances attending the arrival seven years ago of Lord Grey of Codnor in the House of Lords must have left even those in the Labour Party who wish to undermine the hereditary element feeling that the half had not been told to them. For it was achieved by means that would have to be considered quaint and eccentric even by the occasionally haphazard ways of the Upper House. In 1953 Charles Cornwall-Legh took his place on the red benches as the successor to the 4th Baron, a nephew of one of his ancestors, who had died in 1946, at which time the barony had drifted into abeyance.

Charles Legh Shuldon Cornwall-Legh was the son of Charles Cornwall-Legh, who died in 1934. His father was 6th in descent from the 16th and last Baron of Burford (so styled, though he never received a summons to Parliament), the 16th Baron being himself 10th in descent from Richard, King of the Romans, Earl of Cornwall and Prince, and Count of Poitou. His mother was Geraldine Shuldon, the daughter of an Army officer.

In his early days he was educated at King's School, Bruton, and Hertford College, Oxford. He served as a flight lieutenant in the Auxiliary Air Force and the RAF and was a recipient of the Air Efficiency Award. Otherwise he occupied himself with county affairs in Knuisford, Cheshire, where he was a landowner and farmer.

On paper this looked impressive: he was High Sheriff of Cheshire in 1939, and served as a JP from 1938 to 1974. He was a Deputy Lieutenant from 1949, a county councillor, 1949-77. He was chairman of the new Cheshire County Council, 1974-76, and of the Cheshire Police Authority, 1957-74. He was appointed OBE in 1971 and advanced to CBE in 1977.



Charles Cornwall-Legh one of the co-heirs.

Following his father's death, Charles Cornwall-Legh presented further petitions and undertook the costly genealogical research into the lines of the other co-heirs, until he eventually proved his right in 1959.

The Greys were an ancient family, their first proven ancestor being Henry de Grey, seated at the Manor of Thirrock in 1199. The Greys of Codnor descended from his second son Richard, whose grandson, Henry de Grey of Codnor, was summoned to Parliament in 1299. Six generations later the barony fell into abeyance, and being inheritable through the female line, was vested in his three aunts, Elizabeth, Lady Zouche, Eleanor Newport and Lucy Lady Lenhall. It was from Lucy (who left two daughters) that the 5th Lord Grey of Codnor descended.

He married in 1930 Dorothy Whiston Scott (who died in 1993) and they had one son, Richard, a county man like his father and a former member of the British ski team, who succeeds to the barony, and two daughters.

JACK PERRY

Jack Perry, pioneer of British-Chinese trade, died on December 12 aged 81. He was born on March 31, 1915.

JACK PERRY belonged to that generation of East End Jews whose entrepreneurial drive has contributed much to Britain's economy. He was born and brought up in the East End of London at a time of struggle and political strife. He was in Cable Street when Oswald Mosley's blackshirts were faced down by the local community, and his politics always reflected the left-wing

influences of his youth. He was a chronic asthmatic from childhood, and his illness denied him both a regular education and wartime service. Like many East Enders, he entered the rag trade, and that would have probably remained his life if not for an interest in East-West trade which led him to attend the Moscow Economic Conference in 1952.

There he established especially good links with the Chinese delegation. For the next 40 years he devoted his life to improving trade and political and cultural links

with China. He helped to found the 48 Group for companies trading with China and he launched his own company, London Export, to promote that same endeavour.

He made more than seventy visits to China and was instrumental in helping the Chinese Government to build new relationships with organisations across Western Europe. When the first trade offices of the Chinese authorities opened in Berlin, Perry made weekly visits there to exchange views and report developments to the Chinese commercial staff and to assist their efforts to create links with Western European compa-

nies.

In 1954 the conference to end the war in Indo-China and bring peace and independence to a united Vietnam was held in Geneva, to which Premier Chou En-lai led the Chinese delegation. In the conference's early stages, Perry was requested by the Chinese delegation to be present in order to assist in the negotiations then taking place for opening up trade relations between Britain and China.

At the end of the conference, diplomatic relations between Britain and China were resumed. Legations were opened in both capitals and the first Chinese trade mission from the People's Republic arrived in Britain in 1954. Perry was involved in assisting the delegation during its visit.

In 1955 he made a visit to China together with the representatives of 15 companies who together formed an informal British delegation. They signed a trade arrangement worth £30 million, which encouraged other Western delegations to follow suit. It was this visit which led to the formation in 1954 of the 48 Group of British Traders with China. Perry became its vice-chairman.

In 1956 Perry was honoured by the University of International Business and Economics in Peking, becoming a visiting professor there and subsequently spending long periods lecturing Chinese stu-

dents.

He was also a fine bridge player, frequently playing with the British international Ralph Swann, with whom he maintained friendly relations through shared tailoring connections from their youth. On a number of occasions he took bridge teams to China for exhibition matches.

Jack Perry was married to Doris Shafer, generally known as Kate, for 48 years. She died in 1985. He is survived by three sons and two daughters.

MURIEL MONKHOUSE

Muriel Monkhouse, OBE, Red Cross worker and ballerina, died on December 4 aged 86. She was born on February 22, 1910.

IN HER own quiet way, Muriel Monkhouse led a double life in the worlds of ballet and humanitarian service. By day she was an invaluable officer of the British Red Cross and St John War Organisation. On her first day he found so many inquiries waiting from refugees separated from their families that he went home at luncheon and enlisted Muriel Monkhouse's help because she could type and speak French. Thirty thousand inquiries arrived in the first three months alone. Thus began a task that lasted more than five decades.

Ballet came first into her life. She had neither the physique nor the co-ordination to become a professional dancer, but her love of the art was such that she faithfully took class for many years. Born in Huddersfield, she was ten when her father's work as an actuary took the family to Cape Town, and it was in Helen Webb's ballet studio there during the mid-1930s that she met the dancer Maude Lloyd, a South African who had temporarily returned after moving to London and becoming a leading member of Ballet Rambert.

Much of an age and with similar tastes, the two women became friends. On moving back to London, Tiny took class at the Rambert School and with the choreographer Antony Tudor, the latter, a good friend but an ex-jean taskmaster, trusted her knowl-

edge enough to let her stand in occasionally for him as a teacher. When Maude Lloyd married the writer Nigel Gostling, she was a bridesmaid and became godmother to their son Nicholas.

In June 1940, as the German army marched on Paris, Gostling volunteered for work with the new foreign relations department of the Red Cross and St John War Organisation. On her first day he found so many inquiries waiting from refugees separated from their families that he went home at luncheon and enlisted Muriel Monkhouse's help because she could type and speak French. Thirty thousand inquiries arrived in the first three months alone. Thus began a task that lasted more than five decades.

Throughout the war she worked in the French depart-

ment, later dealing with Hungarian, Yugoslav and Austrian families too. During the Blitz, with no time for her to get home to Hampstead in the evening before the bombing began, the Gostlings, living in Kensington, invited her to move in with them, and she remained there ever after, becoming "like family". In 1949 she took over running the Red Cross Tracing Department, where her sensitivity, patience and skill in inquiries reunited many thousands of families separated by war.

Besides an immense correspondence, she visited the Red Cross societies in Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Germany, France and The Netherlands; later conflicts and disasters extended her work to Biafra, Pakistan, Cyprus and the Lebanon. When the number of inquiries

began to lessen (there are still 2,000 a year), she started a campaign to find former refugees whose experience had left them too alarmed to seek the help they needed.

Her devotion to her work was recognised in 1977 by her appointment as OBE; characteristically, she insisted on regarding this as a tribute to the department rather than to her personally. However, she could not similarly shrug off two further distinctions. In 1979, when she officially retired (although she continued to work voluntarily for two days a week), she was given the Society's Badge of Honour.

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began to lessen (there are still 2,000 a year), she started a campaign to find former refugees whose experience had left them too alarmed to seek the help they needed.

In spite of her heavy professional load, Muriel Monkhouse remained intimately involved with ballet and art: attending performances and helping to entertain the guests who visited or stayed at the Gostlings' home, where painters, writers, directors, choreographers and dancers from England and abroad were constantly coming and going, and where Rudolf Nureyev had his London quarters in the basement. Her reticent manner would have made her almost unnoticeable had she not spent so much care on ensuring both the comfort and the feeding of all who came.

She did not marry, but she never lacked for a true family life.

ON THIS DAY

January 2, 1940

TRAPPED AND STARVED

TALE OF RUSSIAN DISASTER

How at least 15,000 Russian troops were

trapped near Lake Kianta, held there for 10

days, and then practically annihilated as a

fighting force by Finnish forces inferior in

number and equipment, is described by a

special correspondent of British United Press at Rovaniemi.

The terrain near the westernmost of the two

northern arms of Lake Kianta forms a natural

trap into which two Russian regiments

blundered early in December. In normal

weather they might have fought their way free,

but the Finns, helped by the intense cold and

snow, managed to encircle them and cut off

their supplies.

Day after day the Finns made no move to do

anything but hold them there. Day by day the bitter cold from which there was no shelter and the dwindling food supplies brought the Russians' resistance lower and lower. The cold froze their finger tips until they could scarcely

pull a trigger.

After 10 days the Finns attacked. For three

days the war was over, and thousands of Russians lay dead. Of those alive, many were hardly strong

enough to stand.

According to military reconstructions of the

A violent attack by the Russian forces in the Tainala sector of the Karelian Isthmus on Sunday was repulsed, after intensive artillery fire, states the Finnish communiqué last night (quoted by British United Press). North of Suomussalmi, where the Russians suffered a heavy defeat two days ago, Finnish troops are still in pursuit. A Russian attack in the direction of Iomantsi, north of Lake Ladoga, has also been repulsed.

The communiqué alleges that the Russian aircraft dropped two bombs on the River Päijänne, inside Norwegian territory, on Sunday. At least 22 persons are believed to have been killed in air raids in south and central Finland on Sunday and six Russian machines are believed to have been brought down.

Turku (Abo) was bombed yesterday, it is stated, but no details are known. A message from Stavropol on the Norwegian border states that rumours that the port of Petsamo had been recaptured by the Finns are regarded there as in the highest degree improbable.

Several Russian tanks and armoured cars arrived at Salmijärvi from the north yesterday and proceeded southwards in an orderly fashion.

The Finnish Legation in London stated yesterday that no confirmation had been received of the recapture of Petsamo.

The Times Best Sermons of 1996

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NEWS

Market shooting fails to halt talks

■ Talks on the future of Hebron reopened last night despite an attack by an Israeli soldier in which he wounded six Arabs in an attempted New Year's Day massacre. He had wanted to stop the town's transfer to Palestinian self rule.

The shooting in Hebron's open air Arab market came as Israeli troops were preparing to withdraw from four fifths of the town. Pages 1, 13

Jobs for the Labour girls

■ The changing face of new Labour has been highlighted by a comprehensive analysis predicting that one in four Labour MPs after the next election will be women. If Tony Blair wins office he will be supported by a Parliamentary Labour Party that is also dominated by MPs who are former councillors, journalists and party officials. Pages 1, 2

Cold payments

One million more cold weather payments to elderly and needy people will be triggered as far as Tokyo, Kentucky and Pontypool. Page 6

Parents' footsteps

Oxbridge colleges are coming under increasing pressure to admit the children of former students, some of whom expect a university place for their offspring in return for much-needed donations. Page 2

Party axe attack

A teenager was struck on the head with an axe by gatecrashers who forced their way into a New Year's Eve party at a friend's house on a naval housing estate in Cosham, Hampshire. Page 3

Wedding day bomb

A newly married couple refused to allow the IRA to ruin their wedding reception when terrorists abandoned a bomb in the grounds of Belfast Castle on New Year's Eve. Page 3

Missing girl clue

The parents of a teenager who left home a year ago are convinced that a videotape proves that their daughter is alive. Page 4

Seaside thrills

Competition to create the ultimate rollercoaster intensified with a £15 million plan to build Europe's longest ride at the Lincolnshire seaside. Page 5

Woman lived 45 years with broken neck

■ A woman who discovered she had been living with a broken neck for 45 years has been told by doctors that a sudden jolt could have killed her at any time. Joy Connor, 56, will have an operation to mend the break which happened when she fell from a barn at 11. Doctors were amazed when an x-ray revealed damage to the peg on which the skull sits. Page 1



Swans were left high and dry yesterday when the Thames froze over at Pangbourne, Berkshire, for the first time in many years. Page 1

BUSINESS

Lost windfalls: Some savers with the Halifax building society could lose out on share bonuses worth £1,000 when the society becomes a bank because of administrative errors. Page 40

Tougher times: The next government is likely to be forced to raise tax and interest rates, says an economic think-tank. Page 40

Hard work: Fraudsters come in all shapes and sizes but they have one thing in common — a phobia about taking holidays in case their misdeeds come to light. Page 37

Rich pay-backs: In our continuing look at the new breed of self-made millionaires, Frank le Duc meets the growing band of businessmen who risked their homes in management buy-outs. Page 38

SPORT

Cricket: England suffered a humiliating defeat on a faster scoring rate in the second one-day international against Zimbabwe. Page 21

Football: Liverpool, the FA Carling Premiership leaders, lost ground when they were beaten 1-0 by Chelsea at Stamford Bridge. Page 22

Tennis: Tim Henman opened a critical year by securing a place in the quarter-finals of the Qatar Open in Dubai. He beat Tamer El Sawy, of Egypt, 6-3 6-2. Page 25

Weather: The undulating heating at Cardiff Arms Park was unable to cope, leading to the late cancellation of the tour match between the United States and Emerging Wales. The all-weather race meeting at Southwell was the only one to survive. Page 25

Movie magic: Geoff Brown reviews the week's cinema releases and gives the prize to the Australian film, *Shine*. Page 29

Rock on: For armchair film fans the best video release of the week is *The Rock*, an all-action show in which Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage try to save a besieged Alcatraz. Page 30

Civilised pleasure: On Day Four of *If These Walls Could Speak*, Michael Henderson picks the Frick art collection in New York. Page 31

Boyzone will be boys: To end their year, Boyzone filled Dublin's showground with screaming girls and treated them to a slavishly rehearsed sequence of dance routines in which the music was largely incidental. Page 31

Winter warnings: Dr Thomas Stanford on the dangers of diving into icy waters; the symptoms of colds and flu; risks of living with birds and why elderly women may faint under the dryer. Page 14

Great-uncle Dracula: In the centenary year of *Dracula's* publication, Daniel Farson reflects on the strange relationship between Bram Stoker and the actor-manager Sir Henry Irving. Page 15

Not stuff: How Kathryn Knight set her world on fire the night she went on a blind date. Page 15

LISTINGS

Preview: The camera follows a caribou calf as it treks 6,000 miles across Canada. *Incredible Journeys* (BBC1, 8pm). Review: Peter Barnard on a sumptuous adaptation of George Eliot. Page 39

OPINION

Priestman's attempt to abort the Hebron deal by violence may have the opposite effect, spurring the two sides to a final effort. It is a reminder to Mr Netanyahu of the forces he has to control. Page 17

Truman and Marshall

Fifty years ago there was an obvious threat that permitted Truman and Marshall to reconstruct American foreign policy. The need for intelligent, principled leadership is no less pressing. Page 17

Brought to book

If a book cannot be stuffed in a pocket or left beside a bed, it can hardly claim to be readable, however limpid its prose. Page 17

COLUMNS

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

The last three years of John Major's premiership have seen a period of economic recovery, better control of expenditure and a Cabinet shift on Europe. If one judges him as Prime Minister on his performance after January 1 1994, his record undeniably looks much better. Page 16

MAGNUS LINKLATER

As one of the exhausted judges who took part in a three-month reading marathon to choose the Whitbread Biography of the Year, I can testify to one thing: there is no such thing as a short biography. Page 16

PAUL BEW

Why should David Trimble's nine Ulster Unionist MPs not make common cause with Labour in the lobbies? It is not likely to happen. There are still, despite everything, warm ties between Tories and Ulster Unionists. Page 16

General: Sir Ian Riddes, Royal Marines; Lord Grey of Codnor; Jack Perry, trade pioneer; Muriel Monkhous, ballet teacher. Page 19

Right to silence: moral excellence in Catholic schools; slang; Prince's trusts; faith in Britain; millennium; *The Times* and Iran. Page 17

TOMORROW

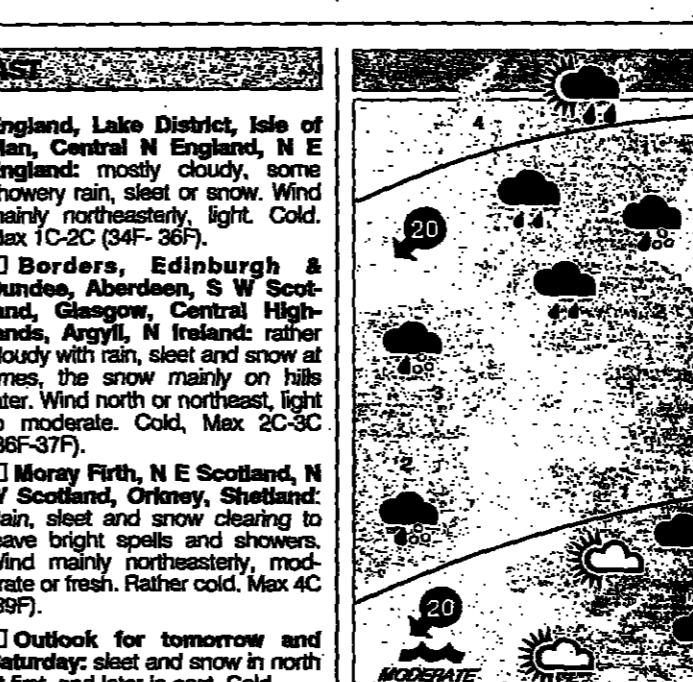
IN THE TIMES

■ FEATURES Robert Lindsay on his latest project, *Goodbye My Love*, a drama-documentary about euthanasia.

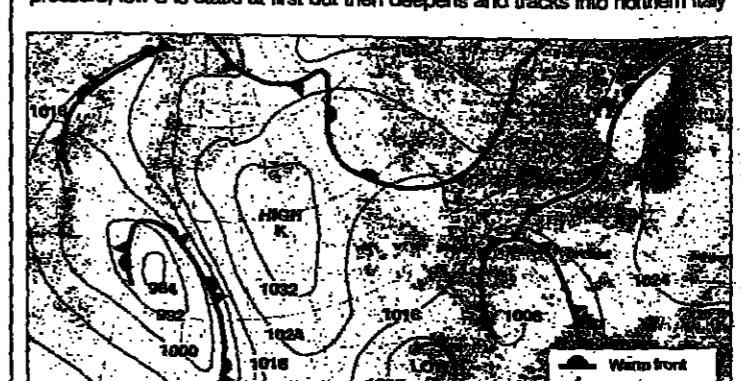
■ POP Times writers predict the top faces and sounds for 1997

Home sweet home: The number of holidays Britons take at home is expected to increase with a growth in "soft adventure". Page 28

North Korea's actions suggest that the regime may indeed be nervously seeking to enter the community of civilised nations. The agreement to meet jointly with Washington and Seoul seems to support the Administration's hopes that careful diplomacy could encourage peace. *The New York Times*



Changes to chart below from noon: high K drifts north with little change in central pressure; low S is static at first but then deepens and tracks into northern Italy



TODAY: London Bridge 6.00 10.00 14.00 18.00 22.00

Aberdeen 6.51 10.03 14.00 18.00 22.00

Antrim 6.52 10.04 14.01 18.01 22.01

Cardiff 6.53 10.05 14.02 18.02 22.02

Derry 6.54 10.06 14.03 18.03 22.03

Dublin (N. Wall) 6.55 10.07 14.04 18.04 22.04

Falmouth 6.56 10.08 14.05 18.05 22.05

Glasgow 6.57 10.09 14.06 18.06 22.06

Harrow 6.58 10.10 14.07 18.07 22.07

Holyhead 6.59 10.11 14.08 18.08 22.08

London 6.60 10.12 14.09 18.09 22.09

Manx 6.61 10.13 14.10 18.10 22.10

Nottingham 6.62 10.14 14.11 18.11 22.11

Sheffield 6.63 10.15 14.12 18.12 22.12

Southampton 6.64 10.16 14.13 18.13 22.13

Wales 6.65 10.17 14.14 18.14 22.14

Weymouth 6.66 10.18 14.15 18.15 22.15

Winton-on-Naze 6.67 10.19 14.16 18.16 22.16

Today: 4.00 pm to 8.00 pm

Tomorrow: 4.15 pm to 8.15 pm

Wednesday: 4.30 pm to 8.30 pm

Thursday: 4.45 pm to 8.45 pm

Friday: 4.55 pm to 8.55 pm

Saturday: 5.05 pm to 8.65 pm

Sunday: 5.15 pm to 8.75 pm

Monday: 5.25 pm to 8.85 pm

Tuesday: 5.35 pm to 8.95 pm

Wednesday: 5.45 pm to 9.05 pm

Thursday: 5.55 pm to 9.15 pm

Friday: 6.05 pm to 9.25 pm

Saturday: 6.15 pm to 9.35 pm

Sunday: 6.25 pm to 9.45 pm

Monday: 6.35 pm to 9.55 pm

Tuesday: 6.45 pm to 9.65 pm

Wednesday: 6.55 pm to 9.75 pm

Thursday: 7.05 pm to 9.85 pm

Friday: 7.15 pm to 9.95 pm

Saturday: 7.25 pm to 10.05 pm

Sunday: 7.35 pm to 10.15 pm

Monday: 7.45 pm to 10.25 pm

Tuesday: 7.55 pm to 10.35 pm

Wednesday: 8.05 pm to 10.45 pm

Thursday: 8.15 pm to 10.55 pm

Friday: 8.25 pm to 10.65 pm

Saturday: 8.35 pm to 10.75 pm

Sunday: 8.45 pm to 10.85 pm

Monday: 8.55 pm to 10.95 pm

Tuesday: 9.05 pm to 11.05 pm

Wednesday: 9.15 pm to 11.15 pm

Thursday: 9.25 pm to 11.25 pm

Friday: 9.35 pm to 11.35 pm

Saturday: 9.45 pm to 11.45 pm

Sunday: 9.55 pm to 11.55 pm

Monday: 10.05 pm to 12.05 pm

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Sunday: 11.05 pm to 12.05 am

Monday: 11.15 pm to 12.15 am

Tuesday: 11.25 pm to 12.25 am

Wednesday: 11.35 pm to 12.35 am

Thursday: 11.45 pm to 12.45 am

Friday: 11.55 pm to 12.55 am

Saturday: 12.05 am to 1.05 am

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THE TIMES

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TODAY



FOOTBALL

Chelsea play their trump card against Liverpool
PAGES 22-23



ROWING

Gifted all-rounder seeking honours at Cambridge
PAGE 24



BUSINESS

Transport chief with the Midas touch
PAGES 37, 38, 40

TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
38, 39

THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1997

'We were just not up to it,' Lloyd laments after Zimbabwe secure victory in series

One-day shambles shames England

FROM SIMON WILDE IN HARARE

HARARE (England won toss):
Zimbabwe beat England by five runs on revised target

A NEW year, but the same old cock-up. England were on top in this match for seven of its eight hours but, as so often is the case, when the hour that really mattered came around they were found hopelessly wanting. In fact, their performance in the final hour, during which they needed just 74 runs from the last 14 overs, with seven wickets standing to win this second one-day international was spineless, even by comparison with some of their other recent disasters.

What made this capitulation all the more painful was the fact that this was England's chance to show that they are indeed superior to Zimbabwe, over whom they claimed a moral victory in the recent drawn Test series. It was their chance to "murder" them. But there was only one team murdered yesterday and it was not Zimbabwe but England, and they were done to death by their own hands.

It was embarrassing to watch and is embarrassing to contemplate. Some of the mistakes England made as they pursued a revised target of 185 in 42 overs was so basic that it

man to accommodate a second all-rounder. As was always going to be the case, this left them with a surfeit of bowlers and, as it happened, Gough, who took four for 43, Mullally and Croft bowled well enough that Zimbabwe were dismissed inside their 50 overs for 200, although it could have been a lot less. At one point Zimbabwe were 38 for four, the "casualties" including Campbell and Hoogmoed.

It was then that Zimbabwe first showed their combative nature. Andy Flower scored 63 from 114 balls and streak a streaky 43 not out. Atherton, the England captain, later paid tribute to the resourcefulness of these "bits and pieces cricketers".

If only England had players worthy of being damned with such faint praise. Without Thorpe in the side, Irani came in at No 6 and White at No 7 and at a delicate stage of the game: they were unable to work the ball around in the way Thorpe might have done. Nor were England helped by the rash approach taken by Knight, who started the runnings by trying to hit everything and threw himself off his feet to the ball from Brandes that had him caught in the covers.

Stewart and Crawley batted beautifully, timing the ball well and finding the gaps between Zimbabwe's razor-sharp fielders. This pair put on 66 in ten overs for the second wicket and although Whittall removed Stewart and Hussain, Crawley and Atherton kept the score moving steadily.

Atherton himself identified as one of the turning points of the match his own dismissal, which left England 137 for four and needing 48 runs from the last eight overs. He pulled a ball from Strang, who was in the early stages of an outstanding spell of bowling, to deep mid on.

It was brave captaincy to bowl a leg spinner at this crucial stage of the game but Strang did not let Campbell down. He proved so hard to get away that when England were looking to score at six runs an over his last three overs cost two, three and four runs respectively. In frustration first Crawley and then Irani were fatally drawn into going down the pitch to him and being stumped.

By the time Irani was out the situation had already become desperate for England. From the last two overs 19 were still needed and White was England's only real hope of getting them, but he was promptly adjudged leg before to Strang, though the ball looked to be going down the leg side. The task of scoring 16 from the last over, from Rennie, proved comfortably beyond Croft and Gough.

Needless to say, the late change in fortunes met with the raucous delight of a capacity holiday crowd at the Harare Sports Club who had been subdued for most of the afternoon as first Stewart, with 41 from 37 balls, and then Crawley, with 73 from 109, put England in the driving seat. But the crowd's enthusiasm ensured that Zimbabwe never quite gave up. As David Lloyd, the England coach, conceded: "Their players were committed and up for the game... more up for it than ours. The game was there for them, but we were just not up to it."

England paid a heavy price for leaving out a sixth bats-

beggar's belief that these are players who are supposed to know the limited overs game inside out. Their team selection was wrong, their shot selection was wrong, their playing mathematics were wrong.

No less hurtful are the facts surrounding the result. It means that England are the first team to lose a limited overs series to Zimbabwe (who are now 2-0 up in the three-match series); that they have lost four times in five one-day matches to the "weakest" Test nation in the world; and that they have lost the last 11 one-day internationals they have played against Test nations away from home.

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England's desperation is evident as Irani is stumped. Atherton had earlier been dismayed to be caught on the boundary, the moment which began the slide towards defeat



C E W Silverwood and A D Mullally did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1 (Stewart), 2-67 (Crawley), 3-95 (Crawley 42), 4-137 (Atherton 59), 5-147 (White 41), 6-157 (White 41), 7-163 (Atherton 41), 8-172 (Strang 73), 9-177 (Hoogmoed 17), 10-180 (1 six, one spell), 11-183 (Strang 32), 12-187 (Hoogmoed 10) (1 six, one spell)

Score after 15 overs: 66-4

ENGLAND: N V Knight c Houghton b Brandes 0 (10min, 10 balls)

1A J Rennie c Hussain b Whittall 41 (51min, 37 balls; 6 fours)

J P Crawley c Atherton b Strang 7 (40min, 109 balls, 1 six, 4 fours)

N Hussain not out 7 (44min, 18 balls)

*M A Atherton c Whittall b Strang 25 (51min, 53 balls, 4 fours)

E A Brandes c Atherton b Gough 0 (2min, 3 balls)

J A Rennie b Gough 0 (2min, 3 balls)

Extras (b 11, w 10, nc 3) 24

Total (48.5 overs, 208min) 200

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2 (G W Flower 0)

2-14 (Campbell 7), 3-26 (Campbell 9)

4-38 (A. Fletcher 7), 5-42 (A. Fletcher 20)

6-43 (A. Fletcher 7), 7-44 (A. Fletcher 24)

8-201 (Strang 43), 9-200 (Strang 43)

10-201 (Strang 43), 11-201 (Strang 43)

12-201 (Strang 43), 13-201 (Strang 43)

14-201 (Strang 43), 15-201 (Strang 43)

16-201 (Strang 43), 17-201 (Strang 43)

18-201 (Strang 43), 19-201 (Strang 43)

20-201 (Strang 43), 21-201 (Strang 43)

22-201 (Strang 43), 23-201 (Strang 43)

24-201 (Strang 43), 25-201 (Strang 43)

26-201 (Strang 43), 27-201 (Strang 43)

28-201 (Strang 43), 29-201 (Strang 43)

30-201 (Strang 43), 31-201 (Strang 43)

32-201 (Strang 43), 33-201 (Strang 43)

34-201 (Strang 43), 35-201 (Strang 43)

36-201 (Strang 43), 37-201 (Strang 43)

38-201 (Strang 43), 39-201 (Strang 43)

40-201 (Strang 43), 41-201 (Strang 43)

42-201 (Strang 43), 43-201 (Strang 43)

44-201 (Strang 43), 45-201 (Strang 43)

46-201 (Strang 43), 47-201 (Strang 43)

48-201 (Strang 43), 49-201 (Strang 43)

50-201 (Strang 43), 51-201 (Strang 43)

52-201 (Strang 43), 53-201 (Strang 43)

54-201 (Strang 43), 55-201 (Strang 43)

56-201 (Strang 43), 57-201 (Strang 43)

58-201 (Strang 43), 59-201 (Strang 43)

60-201 (Strang 43), 61-201 (Strang 43)

62-201 (Strang 43), 63-201 (Strang 43)

64-201 (Strang 43), 65-201 (Strang 43)

66-201 (Strang 43), 67-201 (Strang 43)

68-201 (Strang 43), 69-201 (Strang 43)

70-201 (Strang 43), 71-201 (Strang 43)

72-201 (Strang 43), 73-201 (Strang 43)

74-201 (Strang 43), 75-201 (Strang 43)

76-201 (Strang 43), 77-201 (Strang 43)

78-201 (Strang 43), 79-201 (Strang 43)

80-201 (Strang 43), 81-201 (Strang 43)

82-201 (Strang 43), 83-201 (Strang 43)

84-201 (Strang 43), 85-201 (Strang 43)

86-201 (Strang 43), 87-201 (Strang 43)

88-201 (Strang 43), 89-201 (Strang 43)

90-201 (Strang 43), 91-201 (Strang 43)

92-201 (Strang 43), 93-201 (Strang 43)

94-201 (Strang 43), 95-201 (Strang 43)

96-201 (Strang 43), 97-201 (Strang 43)

98-201 (Strang 43), 99-201 (Strang 43)

100-201 (Strang 43), 101-201 (Strang 43)

102-201 (Strang 43), 103-201 (Strang 43)

104-201 (Strang 43), 105-201 (Strang 43)

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Robertson continues to be disruptive neighbour

Hibernian 0
Heart of Midlothian 4

By KEVIN McCARRA

HOW odd it is that an entire football club can be persecuted by one small footballer. John Robertson, who injured his back and had to be replaced at the interval, did the full measure of damage in a reduced appearance, opening the scoring with the 25th goal against Hibernian of his career. This would eventually be a caper for Heart of Midlothian and it was Robertson who paved the way for that rout.

Hibernian had actually been the more enterprising team until the forward's nimble finish, in the 32nd minute, and having found themselves running out of luck they were soon to be short of a player. Millen committed two weighty fouls on Hamilton in

the first half and was booked for each of them, so earning a dismissal after 38 minutes.

Jim Duffy, who was appointed manager of Hibernian on Monday, may have been kept awake by exasperation. After an hour, Ian Cameron should have brought the scores level at 1-1 but, following an exchange of passes with Wright, he attempted to lob his finish and struck the bar.

Hearts, nonetheless, proved themselves the better balanced side. Even in the early part of the match, when they were rarely able to attack, defenders such as Ritchie stilled opponents with an authority Hibernian could never equal. The experienced McPherson returned as part of a three centre-back formation that ensured Hearts could wait calmly for their opportunities.

As early as the tenth minute, there had, all the same, been a hint of the incisiveness which

would later cut so severely into Hibernian's self-respect. Hamilton, a former player of Duffy's at Dundee who would go on to score twice on his debut in an Edinburgh derby, had headed wide from a cross by Murie, another man facing Hibernian for the first minute.

When Murie again pulled the ball back, in the 32nd minute, he was rewarded with a craftsman's finish by Robertson. The forward was tumbling as he struck a hooked shot, but it still ran true into the corner of the net. Hibernian, storn of dynamism once

McGinlay, who had struck the post earlier in the afternoon, had to be dragged back from midfield to fill Millen's position, then found themselves providing target practice for the rest of the Hearts players.

After 62 minutes, Hamilton

forced Colin Cameron's cross home at the near post and Hearts grew increasingly accomplished at finding the net. Leighton, the Hibernian goalkeeper, provided inadvertent assistance, attempting to clear and only kicking the ball against Hamilton. McCann

was then left to stroke a shot from 25 yards into the unattended goal.

Three minutes from the end, Hamilton showed panache to round off the scoring, lashing a drive past Leighton at the near post after Cameron had shrewdly picked him out. Jim

Jefferies, the Hearts manager, noted that his team could have claimed seven goals, but he was also full of gentlemanly acknowledgement of Hibernian's slight superiority before the interval.

The Easter Road supporters may find kindness from an enemy hard to tolerate. By the closing stages of this game, despondency had fermented into bitterness and some could be heard complaining about Duffy, even though the manager has not been in his post long enough either to hinder Hibernian or help them.

He has, though, had sufficient time to discover how hard his new job will be.

HIBERNIAN (4-2-1): J. Leighton — W. McLean, G. Hunter, A. McLean, G. Lucas — K. Harper (sub: R. Wilson, 52nd), P. McCarron, B. Jackson, J. Wright (sub: G. Donkin, 73). HEART OF MIDLOTHIAN (3-5-2): G. McCausland — D. Weir, C. McPherson, P. Fletcher, D. O'Brien, G. McCausland, J. Hamilton, J. Robertson (sub: N. McCarron, 45). Referee: K. Clark.

Nine plus nine will add up to sheer delight for Rangers

LIKE the chorus in a pop song, there is a maddening phrase that Scottish football cannot get out of its head (Kevin McCarron writes). This evening, at Ibrox, it will be doubled. Should Rangers make it nine in a row, they are likely to win nine in a row. If Walter Smith's side stretch to nine their unbeaten run against Celtic, they will almost certainly go on to claim a ninth successive championship.

Old Firm managers tend to look glumly upon the extravagant claims made for this fixture but, this year, it is far more difficult to deny the significance. "People have said the results of

these matches will decide the title," Smith observed. "We have won the first two and if we could win again it would give us a psychological edge."

There would be tangible benefits, too, in the 14-point lead that victory would confer, with Celtic's two games in hand offering only feeble compensation. This is probably going to be the most important match against Celtic that we will face this season."

Smith acknowledged. His team are swept into it with the impetus of fitness and form. Only Gordon Durie and Stuart McCall are injured and a settled side has been producing its best

form of the season. Rangers's great rivals have been far more fortunate and even in the 4-2 defeat of Dunfermline Athletic on Saturday, the goals conceded may have been more noteworthy than those that were scored. At Ibrox tonight, Celtic need greater efficiency and patience.

"We can't go in there like crazed Indians," Tommy Burns, their manager said. "The most important thing in Old Firm games, as in life, is composure. We have been caught out against Rangers by pushing up too far when we've been trying to get a goal back. We must learn from that."

Celtic have always found it difficult to be defensive, but they are likely to strengthen their midfield on this occasion and leave Pierre van Hooijdonk, the forward, as a substitute. Burns, however, has only been able to set out a broad strategy, since doubts remain over the availability of Andreas Thom, Jackie McNamara and Peter Grant.

Whatever the composition of the team, however, the players will recognise that they face their last chance to prevent Rangers from matching Celtic's record of nine consecutive championships.

FOOTBALL: LIVERPOOL'S SLACKNESS ALLOWS ITALIAN TO EMPHASISE RETURN TO FORM WITH DECISIVE GOAL

Di Matteo drives Chelsea forward

Chelsea 1
Liverpool 0

By BRIAN GLANVILLE

ASKED whether he thought Chelsea could win the FA Carling Premiership, Mark Hughes, their Wales striker, replied as Chou En-lai did when asked what he thought were the consequences of the French Revolution: "It's too early to say."

Certainly Chelsea deserved, as Gianfranco Zola, their dazzling little Sardinian, said, their victory at Stamford Bridge yesterday — a victory that assuaged any lingering bitterness about the 5-1 defeat they suffered at Anfield.

True, Liverpool in some sense committed suicide. The goal Chelsea scored was, from Liverpool's point of view, a ghastly gift. After 44 minutes Thomas inexplicably rolled the ball not to one of his own team, but to Roberto Di Matteo. The Italy international midfield player ran gratefully up and beat David James with a low shot that gave him no ghost of a chance.

Midway through the second half, Chelsea's defence, usually so reliable yesterday, was split by a through-ball from Patrik Berger, the Czech Republic international, who had only just come on. Collymore had only Grodias to beat, but he pulled his shot wide.

"When you get one or two chances," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said, "you've got to stick them away. We didn't do that today."

Rud Gullit, the Chelsea player-manager, was delighted not only with Di Matteo's goal but with the Italian's overall performance. He conceded that Di Matteo had, earlier in the season, gone through a poor patch, attributable largely to his exertions in the European championship.

A couple of weeks' training, Gullit said, had done the trick. "I think sometimes you have to protect the player from himself. Give him the right boost to come back again."

After 34 minutes, Zola got away on the right, finishing with a powerful shot that James was delighted to shot past two defenders for that shot that James patted. Next, he



Fowler goes past the diving Grodias with Clarke, left, and Leboeuf, the Chelsea defenders, looking on yesterday. Photograph: Julian Herbert

goalkeeper was dealing resolutely with a fierce shot from Di Matteo.

Liverpool's tactics remain a mystery. They pass the ball around with almost arrogant ease and precision — Thomas's error being the exception that proves the rule. But the end product tends to be lacking.

And the use made of John Barnes is mysteriously unproductive.

True, we shall never again see the Barnes who scored that wonderful goal in Rio against Brazil, nor the Barnes who, in the Azteca Stadium in the 1986 World Cup, tormented Argentina's right-flank defence for a glorious quarter of an hour.

But that, surely, is no reason to employ him, possibly at his

own instigation, as a kind of quarterback, almost as though he has to have his visa renewed to go deep into enemy territory.

When, on rare occasions, he did there was trouble for Chelsea. In the second half Barnes popped up at the far post to meet a left-wing cross by Bjorneby and force a save by Grodias. Twice, he produced inspired passes for Collymore.

"A sloppy goal," Evans admitted. "But it's having the courage of your convictions and Michael Thomas played a bad ball. He'll admit that, but again, he could have had a shot."

Gullit left himself out of this game, well though he has recently been playing. His

"The thing is," Hughes said, "when playing a team like Liverpool, you have to accept they're going to get a lot of the possession. We were quite prepared to let them have a lot of the possession, providing they weren't creating anything."

Hughes was unlucky not to double the lead soon after Collymore's expensive miss. Zola found Dennis Wise, who had just come on as a substitute, Wise served Hughes and the Welshman, skilfully making space for himself, hammered a right-foot shot that James did wonderfully well to stop from the crossbar.

Besides, he said, he knew Leboeuf was fit again and was delighted with the way he played.

As for the Chelsea team: "It's like a rough diamond. We have to work on it all the time to get the right shape."

CHELSEA (3-5-2): F. Grodias — S. Clarke, F. Leboeuf, M. Duberry — D. Pemerton, C. Buckley, R. Di Matteo, E. Newton, S. Mirell, J. Barnes, J. Thomas, P. Berger, J. James. LIVERPOOL (3-5-2): D. James, P. Bobb, M. Wright, N. Ruddock (sub: D. Matsu, 59), S. Thomas, J. McLeary, S. McAlister, J. Barnes, R. Bjorneby — S. Collymore, R. Fowler. Referee: S. Lodge.

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SQUASH

Wheat's damaged heart beats at compelling tempo

Andrew Longmore meets a young player for whom ill health served as inspiration

WHEN the consultant told Chris Wheat that he should play what sport he could manage, it is probable that snooker or a gentle game of cricket were considered suitable sports for a boy with two holes in his heart and a medical record as long as the New Year's Honours List. Wheat, though, had other ideas, and a measure of his own relentless determination to pursue them can be found on the main draw for the British junior open squash championships, which begin today in Sheffield.

Wheat has been drawn to meet Morten Sorensen, of Denmark, in the first round and, if, realistically, his chances of becoming champion on this year are slender, most medical opinion would suggest that, by rising through the ranks to become one of the most promising juniors in the country, the miracle has already been worked.

For most of the first five years of his life, survival was about the limit of the Wheat family's ambitions for their only son after a large hole in the ventricle had been diagnosed at the age of three months. That meant that the oxygenated blood was being mixed with the deoxygenated blood, weakening the frail body to such an extent that the doctors did not consider an operation practical in those early years.

Soon after, a second hole was discovered in the same section of the heart. An operation scheduled at the age of

two was postponed and again two years later when one of the two holes had closed. To complicate matters further, Wheat began to suffer from epilepsy. For his parents, life was one long return ticket to the Brompton Hospital and days inside doctors' surgeries.

"I could hear the 'shooosh, shooosh' of the blood going through the hole when he was lying in our bed," Brenda, his mother, recalled. "We just seemed to go from one thing to another, from bad to worse. We were on the edge all the time. Looking back, I wonder how we got through."

Courage is clearly hereditary in the Wheat family and more than once the doctors must have looked at the pale



Wheat: medical miracle

little boy before them and marvelled at his ability to fight. "The consultant said he just had something in him which told him to hang on and that has carried through into his squash," Brenda said.

Even at the age of nearly 18, there is not a lot of him, but most of Wheat's opponents will tell you that, what he lacks in power, he makes up for in mental strength and stamina.

As the doctors found out, he is hard to beat. He is studying for his A levels at Colchester Sixth Form College, wants to become a physio and cannot quite work out what all the fuss is about. The doctors still hope that the hole will close in time. Otherwise, the only legacies of his early illness are the biannual visit to the Brompton Hospital and the awed curiosity of outsiders.

"I feel just as fit as everyone else," he said. "I'm actually known for being very fit. I'm one of those boring players who knocks the ball up and down the wall for hours and waits for the other chap to miss. What's happened to me never really comes into it."

His mother does not forget so easily. "The first time I realised he was playing seriously — I hadn't watched him for a while — I got quite frightened at the pace he was playing," she said. "I didn't realise how good he was getting, but we've never tried to stop him playing."

The only rule of the household is that, if Chris should feel unwell on court, he should shake hands and retire. The bond has been broken once, during the final of a tournament in Norfolk.

"He didn't go for a shot and I thought 'there's something wrong here,'" Derek, his father, said, "but he carried on and actually won that game, though he lost in the end."

It turned out that Chris had suffered a quickening of the heartbeat. "I think I had too much caffeine in my blood," he said, a disingenuous excuse which did not soothe his mother's fears. She, though, is the odd one out, the non-squash-player in the family that can also boast daughter Laura, who played for Essex at under-19 level.

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handy

RACING

Tote chairmanship runners jostle for prime position

By RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

A SHORTLIST of candidates for the Tote chairmanship, which includes a descendant of Admiral Rous, the first "dictator" of the Tote, has been chosen and applicants will be interviewed within the next three weeks.

The select group of runners for the £75,000-a-year post, held by Lord Wyatt of Wreford since 1976, will each have a 50-minute hearing before a Home Office appointed panel, Lord Hartington, the driving force behind the creation of the British Horseracing Board (BHB), is one of four members of the interviewing team.

Speculation over who has applied for one of racing's key appointments has been rife for weeks and, although the final list contains some well-touted racing names, it is understood there are also at least two former government ministers — and a dark horse.

Lieutenant-General Sir William Rous was a member of the Army Board until his retirement last July and as Quarter-Master General his responsibilities included the key role of army logistics. Willie Rous, as he prefers to be known, is 57 and lives in West Sussex.

A lifelong interest in racing is underpinned by being the equally well-versed in racing finances and politics. The former president of the Racecourse Owners'

Association is also on the shortlist. He served on the Levy Board and is the BHB's representative on the Tote board. He is a director of Omnicom, the world's second largest advertising group, and was responsible for starting the statistical publication *Trainer's Year*.

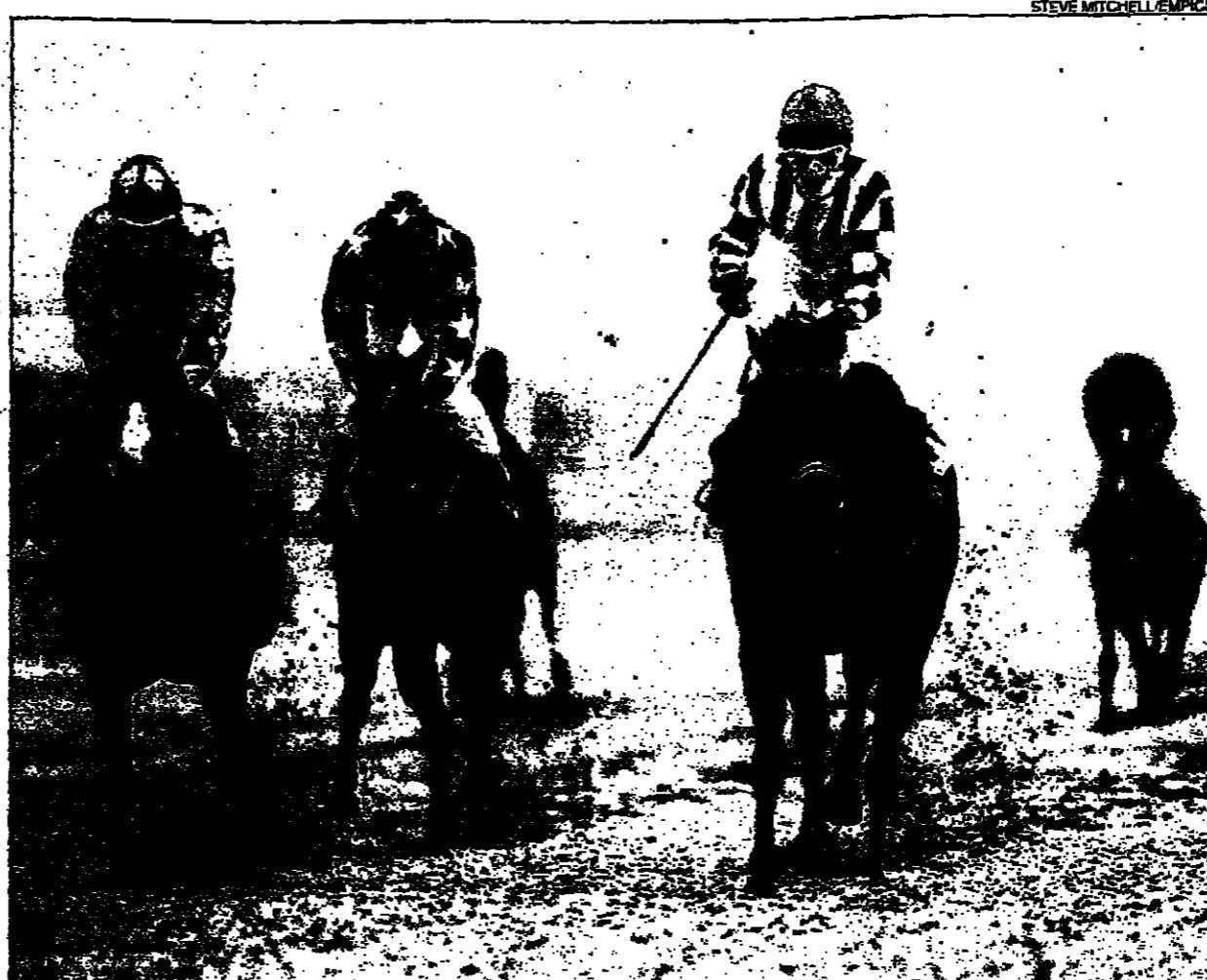
Major-General Guy Watkinson, 53, returned to England in 1984 after serving as chief executive of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club for ten years. During his time in the Special Racing and Betting has assumed a Tote-style monopoly in the colony, which gives him first-hand experience of pool betting.

A total of 62 applied for the 3½-day-a-week job and it is thought likely the shortlist could include up to eight names — with other politicians as possibilities.

The composition of the Home Office panel, which will interview the candidates and make recommendations to Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, is significant. Sir Richard Wilson, the permanent secretary at the Home Office, who received his knighthood in the New Years honours list, will be joined by Caroline Sinclair, whose civil service title is straight out of the pages of *Yes Minister*. She is director of the constitutional and community policy directorate, whose responsibilities include liquor and gambling.

Apart from Lord Hartington, the other outsider is Frances Heaton, a barrister by training, who worked in the Treasury before joining Lazarus Brothers, where she is corporate finance director. For two years, she was director general of the Takeover Panel.

After interviewing the candidates, the four are likely to suggest up to three names to Michael Howard, with a strong steer as to their preference. With Wyatt scheduled to retire at the end of April and general election fever increasing by the week, a decision on his successor is likely to be made quickly.



Ballard Lady, right, defies Arctic conditions to land the six-furlong fillies' handicap at Southwell yesterday

STEVE MITCHELL/EMPICS

Yet Again to make fitness count

By RICHARD EVANS

WITH the freezing conditions hindering many trainers' attempts to get their horses fit, runners with a recent race under their belt have a potential advantage — and that could prove the key to unpicking a competitive all-weather card at Lingfield today.

Yet Again successfully converted improved form over hurdles to the all-weather at the Surrey track on Monday and won easily enough to suggest a 5lb penalty will not stop Gay Kelleway's runner following up in the Rolling Stone Handicap (3.50).

Effervescent was another Monday winner who won with something in hand, and he looks capable of completing a quick treble.

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: CAPTAIN CARAT (2.50 Lingfield Park)
Next best: Yet Again (3.50 Lingfield Park)

ble in the Bird In The Hand Handicap (3.20).

Forgotten Times, who finished almost four lengths behind the Richard Hannon-trained favourite is no better off at the weights and looks held, while Eager To Please, third to Just Loui on Tuesday, must improve to trouble the top weight.

There is a world of difference between the racing surfaces at Wolverhampton and Lingfield, but it could be worth risking that Captain Carat will adapt to today's faster surface in the Too Many Cooks Handicap (2.50) after a most encouraging effort at the slower Midlands track last Saturday.

Having his first run on the all-weather for nearly three years, he finished strongly over five furlongs after being hampered early on and should be suited by today's extra distance. Sharp Imp looks the main rival.

Channel 4 books Lingfield for Saturday

ALL-WEATHER racing at Lingfield could be televised live by Channel 4 on Saturday. The station has put the meeting on standby for coverage should the Sandown card fall to the weather, as expected.

Andrew Franklin, the executive producer of Channel 4 Racing, said: "We plan to show the last four races. The entire team will be at Lingfield and we will also

present *The Morning Line* from there. It will be the first time Channel 4 has been to Lingfield since December 1985."

Lingfield is also due to host a jumps fixture tomorrow but the chance of racing is slim. An inspection will be held at the track, and the other scheduled cards at Sedgefield and Worcester, at 9.30am today.

Conditions have deteriorated at Sandown and the stewards will be out to look at the course at 3.30pm today. The clerk of the course, Andrew Cooper, said: "The track is frozen. We have a long way to go before we can race and there appears no hope in the forecast."

Prospects for the prestige jumps meeting at Haydock on Saturday were described yesterday as "bleak" by the clerk of the course, Philip Arkwright, who has called for an

inspection at 3.00pm today. "The frost is now sealed in with a layer of snow, so we will need an extraordinary change in conditions to race."

Musselburgh had hoped to stage the first jumps racing of the new year on Saturday, but four inches of snow have left the fixture in serious doubt. Officials will inspect at 3.00pm today. The Warwick card on the same day is in grave doubt with the course snowbound and frozen. The time of an inspection has yet to be announced.

The absence of racing on the track is likely to continue until the middle of next week at the earliest. There is an all-weather card every day.

INSPECTIONS

TOMORROW'S MEETINGS
SOUTHWELL: all-weather
LINGFIELD: 9.30am today (frozen)
SEDEFIELD: 9.30am today (frozen)
WORCESTER: 9.30am today (frozen)

SANDOWN: 3.30pm today (frozen)
HAYDOCK: 3.30pm today (frozen)

PLATEAU: 3.30pm today (frozen)

WINGFIELD: 3.30pm today (frozen)

WOLVERHAMPTON: 3.30pm today (frozen)



■ CHOICE 1
The circus
extravaganza
Saltimbano
returns to London

VENUE: Tonight at the Albert Hall



■ CHOICE 2
Josephine Barstow
is Elizabeth I
in Opera North's
Gloriana

VENUE: Tonight at the Grand, Leeds

LONDON
BEEF, NO CHICKEN Derek Walcott's 1970s lark, set in Trinbago where a new motorway threatens Collo Hogan's Auto-Report, is the latest offering from the Barbican's directors for Tolson's Theatre Co Trileps, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW5 (0171-322 1000). Opens tonight, 7pm. Then 29, 30, 31, 1pm, mat. 4pm. Until February 1.

FULL BE YOUR DOG Three women and one male mast are the characters in Robbie McCullum's first stage play, directed by the excellent Andrea Brooks. Told in a successful run at the White Bear, Old Red Lion, 413 St John Street, EC1 (0171-837 7816). Preview tonight, 8pm. Opens tomorrow, 8pm. Then Tues-Sun, 8pm. Until February 1.

SALTIMBANO (cont'd) "Saltimbano is a kaleidoscope of performance art, theatre, circus and rock 'n' roll. Capo du Soleil's breathtaking show on the theme of urban life is crowded with scenes of acrobatics and performance that mixes the trappings of carnival with comedy drama." Albert Hall, Kensington Gore SW7 (0171-588 2121). Opens Jan 10. Tues-Sun, 7.45pm. Then Sat, 7.45pm; mat. 5.30pm and Sun, 2.30pm. Until Jan 19.

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN Touching and convincing adaptation of Mark Twain's masterpiece. Lovely part of central performances, and good playing up and down. The Royal Exchange, Greenwich, Coombe Hill, SE10 (0181-854 7759). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat. Sat, 2.30pm. Until January 25.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST The Christmas show at this theatre are among the very best in the country. Lauren Bacall directs this year's, with mismatched and adorable styling the Beast's palace.

Young Vic, The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 0383). Various times, 10.30am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm. Until February 1.

THE CHERRY ORCHARD Tennessee Williams' classic, directed by Peter Hall, with Alec McCowen and David Threlfall, is a production by Adrian Noble.

Albert St, Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat, 3pm.

THE CRIPPLE OF INISHMAAN Nicholas Hytner directs the second play by Brian Friel, set in the early 1900s on an island off the west coast of Ireland not chosen by Robert Flaherty for his film *Man of Aran*.

National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-923 2252). Now previewing. 7.30pm, mat. Sat, 2.30pm. Opens Jan 7. 7pm. In rep.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JANUARY 2 1997



■ VISUAL ART
If you love paintings and the places where they hang, New York's Frick Collection is unmissable



■ CONCERT
Robert King and the King's Consort fill the Wigmore Hall with a feast of seasonal songs for New Year's Eve

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ POP 1
Boyzone see 1996 to a close with a gig in Dublin that is almost more pantomime than pop concert



■ POP 2
... while a noisy crowd of 15,000 see in 1997 at an all-night rave at London's grand old Alexandra Palace

If These Walls Could Speak: Michael Henderson on the civilised delights of New York's Frick art collection

The best that money could buy

The greatest collection of paintings in the world adjoins Fifth Avenue, a few steps away from Madison Avenue at its most exclusive. It costs \$7 to go in, and there are never more than hundred or so people there at any time. If you love paintings, and the places where they hang, it is not hard to make a case for the Frick Collection as the most glorious place on earth.

Note the word, collection. This is no common-or-garden gallery or museum, of which Manhattan has plenty. Ten blocks up the road there is the Metropolitan, which is too vast to absorb in a single visit, and further up "Museum Mile" is the Guggenheim, the only building in New York designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, who detested the city. In midtown, the Museum of Modern Art, which holds many of the best paintings of the century, and some of the very worst, is ever fashionable. They are all wonderful places, but if you want to enjoy an unrivalled range of masterpieces without disruption, the Frick is unsurpassable.

Of course, it all depends on your taste. There are people for whom the greatest works of Rembrandt, Titian and Goya mean nothing, just as there are those who speak lightly of the *Missa Solemnis*. Fine, let them wallow in the overwhelming talentlessness of Pollock at MOMA, or the latest international blockbuster, at the Met. It leaves more room for those who value art as something more than a gaudy spin on a trendy cause.

Henry Clay Frick made his money in Pittsburgh steel 100 years ago and acquired his collection of paintings and decorative arts on several trips to Europe. It is pleasingly quirky, but nobody can say that he lacked discrimination. However ruthless these American parvenus were in business, their aesthetic judgment was a good deal better than the smarmies in modern-day New York. You can imagine

what Frick would have thought about "conceptual" art and the like. He simply wanted the best that money could buy, and he had plenty of the following stuff.

Three features make the Frick unique: the quality of the collection, the harpooning way the works are arranged and the intimacy of the building, as though visitors are guests in somebody's house, which indeed they are. It has a human scale and proportion, reflected not only in the magnificent paintings but also the superbly displayed European sculpture, furniture and porcelain. Even if there was nothing much to look at, the Frick's restraint and old-world civility would still make it a place worth visiting.

But, my word, there is something to look at. Almost every great artist from Piero della Francesca to Degas is represented here, very often by his finest work. There is a room devoted to Boucher, another to Fragonard, and two rooms of English paintings. Other works — a Manet here, a Corot there — hang in splendid isolation around a central courtyard, where weary souls can rest beside two small fountains.

Two rooms in particular stand out. The Living Hall holds only six portraits, but what portraits. Holbein's *St Thomas More* and *Thomas Cromwell*, face a matching pair of Titians, *A Man in a Red Cap* and *Lord Arundel*, between them, *St Francis in the Desert*, stares at El Greco's *St Jerome*. "That man is alive," I once heard an American lady say of Thomas More, and you may well think the Lord Chancellor still breathes. It seems the greatest picture in the world, until you reach the West Gallery, and see the picture that really is the best.

No matter how many times you come across Rembrandt's 1658 self-portrait, every encounter is fresh.

Like all great works of art, nobody can ever "know" it completely. On one occasion, I stood before this painting for 35 minutes, oblivious to everything and everybody else. It occupies the same emotional world of late Shakespeare and late Beethoven, the only minds truly comparable with Rembrandt's, and it speaks of a knowledge gained at a cost too immense to contemplate.

Everybody has their favourites in the Frick and I am not reluctant to divulge mine. They include Van Dyck's portrait of Frans Snyders, *The Comtesse d'Haussonville* by Ingres, Chardin's *Still Life with Plums*, Lawrence's *Lady Peel and Vermeer's Officer and Laughing Girl*. If I had to live with only one painting in the whole world, it would be the Vermeer, which adorns a wall in the south hall almost casually, as though somebody had just stuck it there.

Off-the-beaten-track collections

tend to be special places. Places such as the Dahlem Museum in Berlin, with its marvellous Dutch rooms, the Lenbachhaus in Munich, home to Kandinsky, or the Isabella Gardner Museum in Boston, attract the enthusiast who prefers to enjoy great works away from the crowds that clutter the more famous galleries. Horror stories abound of major exhibitions, particularly in America. Only in New York could you see the

appalling ignorance that made the 1991 Matisse exhibition at MOMA such a trial. Carnegie Hall on a big night is much the same. People go there to swank.

To be ever-handed, only in New York can you find a private collection such as the Frick. It is a national treasure that prefers to remain a neighbourhood jewel, and may it remain largely undiscovered. The last thing that Frick-lovers want is a troupe of

backwoodsmen charging about the place as if it were one more location on the tourist trail.

Other than the National Gallery, I have spent more hours in the Frick Collection than in any other picture-house in the world, and I do not consider a single moment to have been wasted. Along with Lord's cricket ground, where I have spent a few hours more, the big house at 1 East 70th Street is my favourite place in the world.

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John Gribbin on the Astronomer Royal's exploration of the infinite

And this Universe is just right

If you are intrigued by the discoveries in astronomy that make headline news, but all you know about them is what you read in the newspapers, this is the ideal book in which to find out more, and set those stories in context. If you are a widely read astronomy group, you may find that much of what Sir Martin Rees has to tell covers familiar ground. But the personal perspective on current developments in cosmology from the Astronomer Royal is still well worth reading, since Rees has been in the vanguard of many of those developments that make headlines, and gives an insider's view of one of the most exciting areas of science today.

Rees is the most influential and highly regarded British astronomer of his generation, but one with a relatively low public profile. This book will do no harm to his reputation, but should make the world at large more aware of his abilities. He writes about the nature of the Universe we live in, its origins and fate, and the possibility that it is just one bubble in a sea of cosmic foam.

This is, surely, the ultimate development of the Copernican view of the cosmos. Copernicus showed us that the Earth is not the centre of the Universe, but a planet, like the other planets, orbits around the Sun. Since then, we have learnt that the Sun is just an ordinary star, one of a hundred billion or so similar stars wheeling around in a disc-shaped system, the Milky Way Galaxy. In the present century, astronomers have discovered hundreds of millions of other galaxies, and although for a long time it was thought that our Milky Way was an unusually large specimen, the latest investigations (with which I have been involved) have shown that it is slightly smaller than average.

We live on an ordinary planet, orbiting an ordinary star, in an ordinary galaxy. Now it seems that the totality of everything we can see, all those hundreds of millions of galaxies forming the visible Universe, may be one speck in an infinite array of universes.

In order to lead us up to this dramatic conclusion, Rees tells the story of the Big Bang model of the Universe, and the evidence (especially from the famous cosmic microwave background radiation) that our Universe really was born out of

BEFORE THE BEGINNING
Our Universe and Others
By Martin Rees
Simon & Schuster, £16.99
ISBN 0 684 18822



The Hubble Telescope's view of the Eagle nebula

superdense, superhot fireball some 15 billion years ago. He explains the theory of black holes, discusses the dark matter which dominates our Universe and even digresses into a brief discussion of time travel. There are also tantalising tit-bits of information about the characters involved in the investigation of the Universe (often hidden away in footnotes) where Rees just barely allows us an insight into his feelings about the way science is done, and the way credit is (sometimes mistakenly) apportioned.

This is heady stuff by the standards of Rees's usual public utterances. Too often these days, a scientist who does anything mildly interesting rushes out a press release claiming to have achieved the ultimate breakthrough. Rees is different. Although happy to spend a large part of his professional life investigating the implications of way out ideas (he was, for example, the leading proponent of the idea that the distant, energetic objects

known as quasars are powered by black holes in their hearts, each with a mass as great as a hundred million stars like our Sun put together), trying to get an even mildly sensational comment from him to use in a news report about these ideas has been about as easy as persuading him to let you pull his teeth out. It seems that we owe his cautious step towards the sensational here to his editor at Simon & Schuster, Nick Webb, whom he thanks for urging "that I should speculate a bit, and include controversial topics." We are all indebted to Nick Webb for that advice.

The most fascinating example of where this kind of informed speculation can lead is the notion of anthropic cosmology, which considers the relationship between humankind and the Universe at large. The fact that the Universe is just right for us to live in may seem like a tautology — we have evolved to fit the Universe we live in. But the existence of our kind of universe depends on many subtle balances in the laws of physics and it is possible to imagine universes in which those laws are different (so that, for example, stars run through their life cycles more quickly, so that there would not be time for life forms like us to evolve).

You would never guess from his discussion of anthropic reasoning, but Rees was, in fact, one of the pioneers of the modern version of this kind of speculation. His favoured explanation is that, rather than our Universe being "tailor made" for us, there is a vast array of different universes, and that inevitably life can only exist in a universe rather like the one we live in. "If you go to a clothes shop with a large stock," he points out, "it isn't surprising to find a suit that fits you."

And where are these other universes? Would you believe, at the other end of all the black holes in our Universe?

Rees writes in a thoughtful, slightly old-fashioned style, the professor letting his hair down just a bit for a wider audience. I'd have liked to see him letting his hair down even more, and getting a bit more excited about these truly exciting ideas. But perhaps he feels that the excitement in the ideas speaks for itself, and that no embellishment is necessary. He writes clearly and accessibly, and anyone who starts his book will surely find their way to the end without getting lost.

MARIAN'S son and daughter, Marian, has already tried to pursue the identity of a naked man in a painting marked "For Marian", and to pin down memories of a stranger who rescued her when she was trapped by the sea. The obituary, however, takes Marian to St Ives, where Stella was once a member of the painting community of Nicholson and Hepworth, and so into a lifeboat tragedy based on real events in the life of the fishing community there.

MARIAN'S children are well observed: Alice is a musician with a rackete life, and Toby a City dealer suspected of insider trading. It is not through Alice and Toby, however, that the story achieves contemporary relevance. That lies in a felt tension between mother and daughter which remains vibrant. To this reader's relief, Stella is vindicated as a creditable if minor artist and a good-enough mother. And the despised paintings turn out to include two of three Alfred Wallises and a Nicholson.

Going to St Ives

Elaine Feinstein

THE SERPENTINE
CAVEBy Jill Paton Walsh
Doubleday, £12.99
ISBN 0 385 40847 1

anything more than an eccentric indifference to "unwashed" lies on the trestle among the paints, clothes cast everywhere and hanging out

of half open drawers like the aftermath of a burglary". In reaction, Marian's own energies have been pugnaciously dedicated to ordering a household and attending to the needs of her children. Nevertheless, her marriage has failed, and there is an emptiness at the centre of her life.

Stella's shrugging independence of spirit makes her a more likeable figure than her daughter, so when Stella dies, Paton Walsh needs some guile to involve us in Marian's attempt to uncover the identity of a father she has never known. Craftily placed clues about Stella's life beckon us on. Marian has taken no pride whatever in her mother's painting, since an early boyfriend pronounced the canvases appalling daubs. An obituary of Stella in *The Times*, therefore, is something of a shock for her, and a satisfying surprise for the reader. With the help of a

Madonna as Eva Peron in Alan Parker's film of *Evita*; from *The Making of Evita* by Alan Parker, Bantam, £12.99

Cry instead for the fate of Argentina

Norman Thomas di Giovanni

EVA PERON

By Alicia Dujovne Ortiz
Warner Books, £6.99
ISBN 0 7515 9456 6

SANTA EVITA

By Tomás Eloy Martínez
Doubleday, £15.99
ISBN 0 385 40857 1

the anointed pair's bankrupt

creed. Instead, the journalist Alicia Dujovne Ortiz presents us with such insights as: "Perónism (sic) is a hodge-podge that allows all sorts of interpretations". Worse are passages like the one that informs us that Evita's golden hair — dyed, of course — "would become the saintly halo that penetrated even the deepest realms of her own self-perception". In fact, she would so literally incarnate the role of the saint that her skin would seem to become not just flesh but mortified flesh". We are told that Evita's "power would grow without being based on any actual accomplishments".

Are we supposed to admire something in the abysmal mediocrity of our River Plate Mrs Santa Claus, whose life work was to hand out the packets of sugar, false teeth, refrigerators, trousseaus and homes that are summarised as "the direct redistribution of riches"? To the detriment of legitimate feminist aims one detects a tawdry feminist subtext, the basis of which seems to be Evita's cleverness in comparison to her husband's ineffectiveness. Nor has this biography been well served by the translation. A couple of comic examples will suffice: "ranchos are hotels, not ranches; and yerba dried is the sun is not herbs but mate leaves".

Tomás Eloy Martínez's nov-

el, which has literary pretensions (and the translation of which is also marred) is dis-

turbing. The book contains

many eloquent, dramatic and

colourful sequences. They are

rich in human character, good

storytelling, and the haunting

forlornness that is Argentina.

But where is the book's moral

centre? Why write a novel

based on a life that already exceeds a novel's believability unless it is to use factual truth to get at essential truth?

But the author plays

Borges's game with shifting

mirrors to such an extent that one is lost in postmodern mishmash in which the story told is heavily interlarded with the story of how the story was

told into being. The main

story is that of the Beloved's

elaborately embalmed corpse,

which were missing for more

than a decade, and the secret

service colonel in charge of

hiding and disposing of it.

Fine, except for the excessive

authorial intrusion, which be-

gins with a footnote to clarify

that a quoted letter is real. The

letter is perfectly authentic,

fictional or actual, until one

reads that note. The result is

the creation of more mystery

and speculation, when Argentina

needs to be brought out of

darkness into the sunshine

and light of civilisation.

What Evita bequeathed was

not lawful rights but favours

from the top. Evita never

misappropriated funds, it is

said, yet she left an estate

worth millions. Far worse

than the theft of money, she

size of people's minds. The re-

gime's indoctrination of

schoolchildren may have been

its chief crime: such brain-

washing has not only crippled

generations of Argentines but

has also prolonged the au-

thoritarianism which has been

the country's scourge since the

first usurpation and Argent-

ine soil.

Varied views of life behind papal walls

Roger Boyes

HIS HOLINESS

John Paul II and the

Hidden History

of Our Time

By Carl Bernstein

and Marco Politi

Doubleday, £20

ISBN 0 385 40838 3

INSIDE THE

VATICAN

The Politics and

Organisation of the

Catholic Church

By Thomas J. Reese

Harvard University Press

£6.50

ISBN 0 691 02820 0

used for military assault, not

for agriculture..."

Well, this is the Pope as we

know and love him, a man

famous for his fascination

with missile silos. You begin to

smell a rat when the authors

stress the deep Roman Catholic

roots of Reagan, Walters and

CIA director William

Casey. Bernstein and Politi are

desperate to find common

ground between their two

heroes. Were they not both

actors? And is not the Vatican

a kind of superpower with

command over hundreds of

millions of Catholics, with its

own government, intelligence

service and political ambitions?

An ideal intelligence

agency would be set up the

way the Vatican is," security

adviser Richard Allen tells

Reagan. Here is the heart of

the Bernstein and Politi

volume, though some are plainer

and more explicit than others.

And some are more

implausible than others.

And some are more

Ian McIntyre assesses the lasting power and surprisingly diverse appeal of one of the 19th century's greatest playwrights



Disciplined: Henrik Ibsen in 1870

As a young man, Robert Ferguson knew Hammar when he enrolled for a degree course in Norwegian to learn to read them in the original. When he subsequently wrote the life of Norway's greatest novelist, he called it *Enigma*. The title would have served equally well for his new biography of that country's greatest playwright.

A generation has passed since Michael Meyer's life of Henrik Ibsen. New material uncovered since then includes a letter of Ibsen's admitting paternity of the illegitimate child he fathered at 18 and details of how narrowly he escaped forced labour for failing to contribute adequately to the boy's support. Ferguson has also seen the diary of Emile Bardach, long believed lost but simply overlooked in a Parisian library.

The situation with Bardach, daughter of a well-to-do Vietnamese family, was one of several relationships with young women in Ibsen's later years. ("My wild woodland bird" he wrote to another of them - Hildur Anderson, his muse for *The Master Builder*). To Bardach he appears to have talked of divorcing his wife and travelling the world with her, although he also admitted that he was studying her: "She never got her claws into me," he graciously told one of his German translators, "but I used her for my writing."

These "little princesses" were an escape from the bleakness of his marriage. "They live in great comfort and elegance," wrote a visitor in 1893, "but in the most complete bourgeois silence. They are two lonely people, living absolutely in their own worlds." Isaac Bashevis Singer once said he sometimes dreamt of killing his wife but never of leaving her. Ferguson believes that captures Ibsen's feelings towards his Suzanne.

While acknowledging the value of Meyer's monumental study, Ferguson calls it "a biography of the spread of Ibsen's reputation". His own aim is both more modest and more precise, and was brought into focus by John Bartram's production of *Peer Gynt* at the Oslo Amfiteater: "I remember walking away from the theatre and wondering why a man who could create a cosmic circus like that should choose to devote the rest of his life to writing a series of dark analyses of unhappiness."

HENRIK IBSEN
A New Biography
By Robert Ferguson
Richard Cohen Books, £25
ISBN 186067039

discipline that was almost obsessional. When he returned home after 27 years of self-imposed exile in Italy and Germany he was almost as celebrated as his exact contemporary Tolstoy. An English visitor observed his ritual daily entrance to the Grand Hotel in Kristiania - the invariable black overcoat and stove-pipe hat, the prized decorations pinned to his chest: "A forbidding, disgruntled, tight-lipped presence, sternly dignified, straight as a ramrod - a touch of grim dandyism about him, but with no touch of human kindness about his parchment skin or fierce badger eyes."

His later plays, deeply concerned with the subconscious, greatly interested Freud. He detected in *Rosmersholm* evidence that Rebecca West had had an incestuous relationship with her father. (When the play had its London premiere in 1991, a reviewer in *The Gentlewoman*, found little to praise: "These Ibsen creatures are vile, unlovable, morbid monsters, and it were well indeed for

society if all such went and drowned themselves at once."

Ibsen may have created the modern theatre, but half a century after his death his genius remained a matter of opinion. "Where do you get your taste in authors?" asks Tyrone derisively in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night*. "Voltaire, Rousseau, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Ibsen! Atheists, fools, and madmen!"

Theatregoers nonetheless still flock to Ibsen's harrowing dramas, and not only in Oslo's National Theatre or London's South Bank. *A Doll's House* no longer has great force in western society as an assault on the institution of marriage, but Ferguson, who has lived in Norway for the last 14 years, points out in an intriguing aside that it has assumed meaning for advocates of an Islamic reformation. It has twice in recent years been performed in the Norwegian capital by visiting and native Islamic theatre groups, and has also been adapted as an Iranian film. Ibsen, whose mordant but elusive humour does not always survive translation, might just have permitted himself the grim ghost of a smile.

Ian McIntyre's biography of Robert Burns, *Diri and Deity*, is published this month by Flamingo, priced £3.99.

ZHAR COHEN

Lost in the Love Hotel

Tobias Hill

FLIGHT PATHS OF THE EMPEROR
By Steven Heighton
Granta, £9.99
ISBN 1862070016

you are haunted. You live in ... an age of airline passengers scattered families, flight paths and far off destinations."

A writer of poetry and fiction, Steven Heighton has been anthologised but never fully published in Britain. His prose is charged with strong emotions, but the care and pace of the writing give the emotion balance, making it subtle and intense, as in the sad comedies of a condemned sushi bar in *Five Paintings of a New Japan*, and the hatred of a half-Japanese girl for her father in *Apparition Play*.

"Home is if your mother lives, and where," Heighton writes in one of several stories about family life - the distances between mother and son, husband and wife. But for the most part *Flight Paths of the Emperor* is set in Japan itself, a society where the young are *Shinjin*, or strange, inquisitive crea-

tures" who recite 10th-century haiku but hardly talk about Hiroshima.

Heighton documents the generations of Japanese who have become alienated and are in flight from their own history. "A fabulous nightmare from which their parents shooed them awake." Echoing through many of the Japanese stories is a haiku by Basho - "Ah, summer grass! All that remains! Of warrior's dreams." In Heighton's vivid, clear prose, the poetic image becomes a haunting motif for the postwar reconstruction of a culture broken almost beyond repair. "After the surrender ... wildflowers bloomed on the ruins, rippled in the hot wind. There was nothing for the children to eat ... I heard other things as well; how faceless Japan had been, how for a while it had been a different place ... waiting for the first touch of a foreign hand. For a sea change, into something rich and strange."

Tobias Hill's current collection of poems is *Midnight in the City of Clocks* (OUP); his first volume of short stories, *Skin, Jin, Rui, Strange*, is to be published in June.



Legacy of our men in Africa

Thomas Pakenham

WINDS OF CHANGE
By Trevor Royle
John Murray, £19.99
ISBN 0719553520

A FIGHTING RETREAT
By Robin Neillands
Hodder & Stoughton, £25
ISBN 0340635207

wig; down came the Union Jack, and up went the new black and gold and green (or whatever colours they had chosen) and a new nation was born.

Predictably, Britain's biggest error in constitutional design was in Nigeria, where a quarter of Africa's population were thrown together in a half-baked federation, weighted to favour the North. But even in Nigeria, tormented by civil war in the 1960s and looted by corrupt politicians ever since, the civil service, trained by the old rulers, has held firm and kept the nation on its feet. How the unfortunate citizens of Zaire must wish their nation had been equally well equipped at independence.

In British Africa the transfer of power was peaceful and almost dignified. Off-the-peg constitutions were hastily brought out, dusted and sent off to Africa; parliaments were thrown up like theatre props (designed on the Westminster model) down to the Speaker's

remains that Britain was the first imperial power to see the writing on the wall; and so was able to win a breathing space to prepare its black subjects for independence, an opportunity not granted to other rulers in Africa.

To enliven his story Royle uses a medium not available to an earlier generation of historians: transcriptions from the tape-recorded voices of some of the participants.

Strange to say, he fails to exploit that gold mine of

British colonial records, the tape-recordings at St Antony's, Oxford. The book documents vividly the confused feelings of the British administrators at the handing over of their colonies at the speed of events: sadness at leaving, pride in a job well done, misgivings for the future.

In *A Fighting Retreat: The British Empire 1947-1997*, Robin Neillands also draws heavily on tape-recordings to write about the colonial wars of this period - "small wars" as people called them, somewhat dismissively, during the 19th century. He covers not merely the Mau-Mau revolt in Kenya and the bush war in Rhodesia, but wars in other parts of the Commonwealth, and the very different kinds of campaign in Northern Ireland and the Falklands. Neillands has harvested a rich crop of new material, interviewing British soldiers of all ranks, and has edited it into a narrative which is vivid and illuminating - if hardly very edifying.

This essay is one of the liveliest accounts of rebellious boyish nihilism I have ever read. It is also a good account of Dadaism, insofar as that movement - invented by the marie Tristan Tzara at about this time - allowed itself to have any even marginally intelligible ideas. Breton became for the first few years of the 1920s an enthusiastic Dadaist, handing over to Tzara a literary magazine he had founded.

But where was he to go from there? The answer, which we get in the other main essay here, is *The Mediums Enter*, was to abandon Dadaism and surrealism in 1924, it caught on, and the notion was in vogue until the late Thirties.

Not that it ever produced much. Writers such as Louis Aragon, who started writing under the Surrealist banner, soon turned to communist politics. The one good poet who emerged from the movement in France, Paul Eluard, certainly had an instinct for stringing together evocative, broken lines about love and grief - the editor of the *Pleiade* edition of Eluard's works describes his poems as like the "wings of a butterfly

Unconscious manifesto

invent Surrealism. Surrealism is the main essay, *The Disastrous Confession*, written in 1923, is a splendidly exuberant piece of youthful writing, full of bold repudiations of anything resembling reason or sense. "I do not see so-called logic as anything more than the shameful exercise of weakness," writes Breton. What he believes in, he says, is "never letting anything become dulled in me" - in "hurling the window every day, again and again." His hero in this essay is an elegant young man called Jacques Vache, a past master in the art of attaching very little importance to anything, who spent his time drifting around Paris bars, and in 1919 killed himself - according to Breton - as a good black joke.

This essay is one of the liveliest accounts of rebellious boyish nihilism I have ever read. It is also a good account of Dadaism, insofar as that movement - invented by the marie Tristan Tzara at about this time - allowed itself to have any even marginally intelligible ideas. Breton became for the first few years of the 1920s an enthusiastic Dadaist, handing over to Tzara a literary magazine he had founded.

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the masterful selection and deployment of their imagery, not just from the fact that it has welled up from the unconscious.

In Britain, the movement

had little serious influence, though in 1926, at the time of the International Surrealist Exhibition in London, Herbert Read produced an absurd book about it in which he praised the Surrealists as having "as pure a spirit as the Bolsheviks". Henry Moore is sometimes claimed as a Surrealist. And today, whenever he gets a chance to write about it, George Melly still tries to keep the old flame burning.

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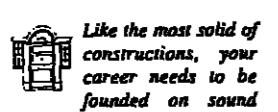
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New year, new ideas, new company? Many readers of *The Times* were doubtless intrigued by Monday's headline "Boardrooms 'too biased' towards the shareholders". To many retired investors, let alone the City, this sounds like blaming governments for appeasing voters or the BBC for pandering to licence-payers.

The headline did, however, encapsulate the message from Mark Goyder, director of The Royal Society of Arts' Centre for Tomorrow's Company. It encouraged business to prosper by caring for all of its key "stakeholders", until Tony Blair hijacked that word. Now, the centre wants companies to be "inclusive".

The centre's submission to the Hampstead committee, latest to ponder the niceties of corporate governance, issues a pre-election warning. "If companies wish to avoid the imposition of a more prescriptive format of new company law, it is becoming increasingly urgent that board practice is brought closer into line with the spirit of the existing law."

The spirit of the law? Companies must obey laws to protect people they affect: customers, employees, competitors, suppliers, taxpayers and all who live in the community. Beyond that, company law is pretty clear on a board's duties. Shareholders are both the owners and the members of public companies, and directors are responsible to them.

That was recognised by another pioneer of the shareholder idea. "Big business is getting steadily

Shareholders are still the best guardians of success



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

and inevitably bigger. As it grows, so does its social power. Yet under existing company law, its sole duty is to the shareholder. Without any obligation to seek their assent to its policies, it can earn lasting goodwill neither from its employees, nor from the consumers of the goods and services which it provides, nor from the community of which it is a corporate citizen. Hence our economic life is one of perpetual conflict."

This was the thesis of *The Responsible Company*, published 35 years ago by Mr Goyder's distinguished father, George. In 1960, Goyder père vainly lobbied the Jenkins company law committee to create a new class of "participating company". It would aim to pay a "reasonable" return on its invested capital but have state-approved articles of association that entrenched obligations to consumers, employees and the national interest, embodied in three representative directors on a board of nine. It would be accountable to all these interests at annual meetings. And every three years it would undergo a "social audit" of the kind that Body Shop has just pioneered.

Today's new thinking is not entirely new. George Goyder was a policy

adviser to the Liberal Party, which had some appealing alternative policies in the 1960s. In those days, the stakeholder company was put forward as an alternative to socialist ownership, the active creed of the Labour Party. Participating company status, its purest legal embodiment, was aimed primarily at nationalised industries.

T

ony Blair now talks of the stakeholder society. But 1960s Liberal ideas seem far too radical for new Labour. Pending its manifesto, the party seems to be thinking only of permitting two-tier boards and, possibly, a general clause imposing wider duties on company directors.

Such formalities will have little effect. In today's maelstrom of market forces, building societies and insurance companies that prospered with help from their mutual status are queuing to convert. They hope slavery to the passing shareholder will make them more flexible.

The consensus participating company, anathema to 1980s Tories, would have been a more politically acceptable vehicle to privatise true monopoly utilities. Even so, prices charged to consumers would probably now be higher because the discipline of competing in the capital market was diluted.

I

selected, Labour should consider

something on these lines such as

the Post Office. Capital might be in

an earnings-linked, index-linked

form of preference share, as in old

statutory companies.

As investors, academics and regu-

lators have all discovered, it is

impossible to fix a "reasonable"

return in a competitive capital mar-

ket for companies that need genuine

risk capital. New structures cannot

magically create consensus, let alone

success. The real issue is how best to

serve shareholders, whether they are nameless City apparatchiks or employee partners. In that sense, the stakeholder approach is just a form of the nebulous argument about short-termism.

Lord Weinstock, looking back this week after 33 years building GEC, claims that he believed in "managing the company for the good of the business in the expectation that the shareholder would benefit in due course". Those with long memories may recall different images after GEC's big mergers with AEI and English Electric. Lord Weinstock was a hero to investors but pilloried by others as a butcher who cared for nothing but the bottom line. The trust he earned from shareholders enabled him to take a long view.

Companies that respect customers, care about employees and play fair with suppliers usually deliver more to shareholders in the long run. Stock market ratings reflect this. As companies become more visible, their worths harder to hide, market forces are also obliging more boards to be good citizens, even though huge, rapid job cuts have disguised the trend.

Recent takeovers show that myopic

shareholders can and sometimes do

prosper at the expense of the long-

term interest of companies and their

other stakeholders. But that is no

reason to protect boards from their

shareholders. For you will search in

vain for companies whose sharehold-

ers languish, yet whose other stake-

holders prosper.

RADIO CHOICE

A liberal dose of morality

Liberal Britain on Trial. Radio 4. 8.00pm.

Taking my cue from the referee, Nick Clarke, I won't cloud the issue by declaring my own reaction to the arguments on sex and morality as presented in this programme. There is much food for thought, mostly well cooked and served. The charge brought against sexual freedom in this approximation of a trial is that it has broken many of the links that bind society together and has also eroded morality. That case is presented by Mary Kenny. The case for the defence, argued by Poly Toynbee, is that we are in the grip of an unreasoning national moral panic. Two further "trials" in this series will test other fundamental assumptions that have become part of society's common currency since the Swinging Sixties.

Born to be Perfect. Radio 4. 9.30am.

Serious in content, whimsical in structure, Sue Nelson's audio-diary of her bid to lose unwanted fat will leave other chocolate addicts wondering whether dieting is worth all the fuss. She doesn't get a morale boost when she asks a zoo specialist which animal she should emulate to improve figure and lifestyle. The male chimpanzee, he says, because he thrives on fruit and veg and barges around his cage acting domineeringly. On the specific question of her chocoholism, the advice of one psychologist sounds far too vague: "Remove the wrapping, sniff the delicious brown stuff, then put it aside and try to forget all about it". Peter Daville

RADIO 1

7.00am *Mark Radcliffe's Live from Manchester* 9.00 *Kevin Greening* 12.00 *Nicky Campbell* 12.30pm *Newbeat* 12.45 *Nicky Campbell* 3.00 *Mark Goodier* 7.30 *Evening Session with Jo Whiley* 8.00 *Mark Radcliffe's Live from London* 8.30 *What's That Sound?* 8.45 *Mark Radcliffe's Live from the Shell* 11.30 *Meridian* On Screen 12.00 *Sports International* 12.15 *World Business Report* 12.15 *British Today* 12.30 *Assignment* 2.05 *Outlook* 2.30 *Muttrach* 3.05 *Sports International* 3.15 *From the Shell* 4.00 *Corporation* 4.30 *World Business Report* 4.45 *British Today* 4.50 *BBC English* 10.45 *BBC English* 10.45 *On the Shelf* 11.30 *Meridian* On Screen 12.00 *Sports International* 12.45 *World Business Report* 12.45 *British Today* 12.55 *Assignment* 2.05 *Outlook* 2.30 *Muttrach* 3.05 *Sports International* 3.15 *From the Shell* 4.00 *Corporation* 4.30 *World Business Report* 4.45 *British Today* 4.50 *BBC English* 10.45 *BBC English* 10.45 *On the Shelf* 11.30 *Meridian* On 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Gloss of reality gives the Floss a timeless truth

The year just ended brought a revival for television adaptations of the classics and the one just started looks like continuing the trend, although the drama departments will be going some if they can't produce this year, anything to outdo last night's *The Mill on the Floss* (BBC1). This was sumptuous stuff, two hours to heal the wounds of a predictable holiday schedule.

George Eliot's best work has recently grazed the screen in the serialisation of *Middlemarch*, an outstanding event which made the licence fee look cheap even if you didn't watch anything else. The decision to continue *The Mill on the Floss*, Eliot's most famous book, to a one-off was the right one, for this is a story that benefits from compression rather than the opposite. It is usually billed as a tale of unrequited love, but there is a lot more to it than that.

Eliot's after ego is to be found in

the central character of Maggie Tulliver, played with a faintness for the party-in-family Wessex. Maggie's dilemma is one that pervades much of Eliot's writing, she longs to offend her heart, the woman's struggle to be taken seriously as an individual while coping with the demands of univited passion.

Hugh Snodderly's adaptation eliminates all of this, without losing track of a cracking story, in which Maggie attempts to juggle her principles, her family, her idealistic love for Philip (James Frain) and her passion for Stephen (James Weber-Brown) and in tragedy. The last scene, in which Maggie dreams attempting to save her brother Tom (Iain Meredith), will live in the memory a long time.

It is one thing to describe in words Maggie trying to rescue Tom but deciding once his life is clearly gone to do with him. To do

so in a television sequence underwater is quite another. But a combination of Graham Thakston's directing and Watson's ability to make her face act for her achieved that feat and the result was a moment of real dramatic brilliance.

From *The Mill on the Floss* the overriding lesson is that the best of costume drama is not an alternative to life but an evocation of it, not an historical curiosity but a glimpse of truths that are timeless. Eliot deal in human relationships and she was a mistress of the art. My Boxing Day attack in this space on the bogus "reality" of *EastEnders* is here given fresh impetus, for real life is primarily about the rhythms in relationships not the reaction to incidental events. There is more reality in two hours along the River Floss than in 100 episodes from Albert Square.

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REVIEW

Peter Barnard



Another reality, this one a creation Mother Nature had its moment on television yesterday and I am disappointed to find myself unimpressed. Not that the rising sun is ever a disappointment, though there are those who may wonder how the heck I know. But a thing of beauty is not necessarily a programme idea awaiting co-production money. Global Sunrise Around the

World in 80 Minutes (BBC1) must have sounded like a good scheme at the time, but I was left with the feeling that natural history on television is starting to strain for new forms of expression.

I expect my reaction was assisted by finding a programme fused on sunrise in 20 places around the world being transmitted at 5.30 in the afternoon. Yes I know: nobody is watching at sunrise. But occasionally ratings have to be sacrificed to achieve some sense that the event has a relevance to the viewer's perception of time and this was such an occasion. Perhaps the notion was that a hungover nation would rage the programme and watch it during breakfast someday. Dream on.

The film had some lovely moments, especially the turtle laying its eggs on a beach along the Great Barrier Reef, burying them in the sand and then making her tortuous journey back to the ocean. And

of course the filming was exquisite: we have come to expect that from natural history cameramen. But I could not help feeling that someone somewhere had been asked for a film with a theme and someone somewhere else had a yen to watch the sun come up. The result was a co-production between the BBC, several other national television companies and The Disney Channel in America. We did not quite get Bambi prancing in the surf as the sun rose but it was a close thing at times.

Kliniki uses a Dutch soap opera about a hospital and over-dubs it with English dialogue in a Dutch accent. Great potential, not quite realised last night. The bit in which Diana, Princess of Wales, on a charity binge, rejected two children on the grounds that they "aren't ethnic enough" was a tired old joke but the main theme, of a hospital run by a man who used to own an abattoir now hoping to attract patients from the British NHS, ought to be good for some fun.

BBC1

6.00am BBC BUSINESS BREAKFAST (3913714) 7.00 BBC News (43233679) 9.05 Incredible Games (7202860) 9.35 Sweet Valley High (2644734) 9.55 William's Wish Wellingtons (6086547) 10.00 Playdays (7078024)

10.25 FILM: *The Apple Dumpling Gang* (1974) Western comedy starring Bill Bixby, (1805937)

12.05 INCOGNITO (5527734)

12.30 WIPEROUT (68227)

1.00 NEWS (7) and weather (58802)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (4434550)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (7) (3175228)

2.00 FILM: *The Strongest Man in the World* (1975) Comedy, starring Kurt Russell. A student and his cohorts discover a magic formula which will give them superhuman strength. Directed by Vincent McEveety (14869)

3.30 PLAYDAYS (3265208) 3.50 Casper Classics (297227) 3.55 *Wham! Bang! Strawberry Jam* New series (1241258) 4.10 *Free Willy* (1042104) 4.35 *The Really Wild Show* (7257821) 5.00 *Newround* (7) (1473856) 5.10 *The B.C.* (7) (1252802)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (7) (556886)

6.00 NEWS (7) and weather (79)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS (7)

7.00 WATCHDOG An update on recent stories (7) (5024)

7.30 EASTENDERS Lorraine decides it's time to split the beans and Grant pesters an unwelcome visitor to a shocked local (7) (43)

8.00 **INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS** Following the first migration journey of a new-born reindeer calf as it makes the long and dangerous year-end trek across North America, a cable journey (7) (444)

8.30 **NEXT OF KIN** New series, Andrew takes over the running of the house when Maggie falls ill. With Penelope Keith and William Gaunt (7) (7109)

9.00 NEWS (7), regional news and weather (2531)

9.30 **THE X-FILES**: The Pather An odd psychic admits to 14 solved murders, describing each scene so perfectly that the investigating officers are convinced of his guilt. However, Mulder and Scully are not so sure (57334)

10.15 **THE FRANK SKINNER SHOW** New series of chat and comedy (7) (59244)

10.45 **THE BIRTH OF HORROR** Christopher Frayling visits the dark alleys of old Edinburgh in search of the truth behind Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (42805)

11.35 FILM: *Hallowe'en* (1978) with Jamie Lee Curtis and Donald Pleasance. Michael Myers escapes from a state mental home 15 years after initially murdering his sister and goes on a bloody house-to-house frenzy in his home town. Directed by John Carpenter (7) (651482)

1.05 FILM: *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1931) b/w Spencer Tracy, John Barrymore, Louis Turner and Ian Hunter. See *Reviews* Directed by Victor Fleming (42805)

3.05 WEATHER (53907880)

BBC2

7.15 SEE HEAR BREAKFAST NEWS (6595192) 7.30 *Frog* (8054847) 7.35 *Today* (7051821) 7.50 *The Busy World of Richard Scarry* (289573) 8.15 *Peter Pan and the Pirates* (622024) 8.35 *The Legend of Prince Valiant* (5937260)

8.45 FILM: *Portrait of Joanie* (1968) Romantic drama starring Joseph Cotten, Jennifer Jones. Directed by William Dieterle (5024227)

10.25 FILM: *The Enchanted Cottage* (1945) b/w Miss Dorothy McGuire and Robert Young. A pretty young girl and a dislodged yet well-intended stumble across a country cottage where they both suddenly appear beautiful and fall in love with each other. Directed by John Cromwell (7358274)

12.00 THIS PHIL SILVERS SHOW (6976) (7) (5520005)

12.25pm *MAN IN A SUITCASE* (7) (503353)

1.15 POLICE SQUAD (7) (5771294)

1.40 **THE CARS THE STAR** The Volkswagen Golf GTI (7) (5778531)

2.00 **DEATH OF THE LIONS** The controversial 1974 British Lions rugby tour of South Africa (7) (7) (202117)

2.45 **GREAT RAILWAY JOURNEYS** March to the Khyber Pass (7) (7) (2422208)

3.40 **LOVE ON A BRANCH LINE** Comedy (7) (5035524)

4.00 **FIRE** Flaming Star (1969) Western, starring Elvis Presley. Directed by Don Siegel (5049242)

4.30 **STAR TREK: Deep Space Nine** (7) (593482)

5.00 **INCREDIBLE JOURNEYS** Following the first migration journey of a new-born reindeer calf as it makes the long and dangerous year-end trek across North America, a cable journey (7) (444)

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The numbers need to each TV programme, listing and the Video



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on power in
the boardroom

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How a holiday
might have
stopped Leeson

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Computer errors may cost Halifax members their bonus

BY LERINNE SMITH
AND MARIANNE CURPHEY

SAVERS with the Halifax face losing share bonuses worth £1,000 on average when the society converts to a bank because of serious errors in its computer files. Within hours of the expiry of the new year deadline for members to top up their savings to qualify for a bonus, the Halifax has admitted that many savers have been sent the wrong information.

Errors include being told that they are ineligible for free shares, when they do qualify. The society has admitted that

there may be discrepancies in information sent to its 11 million customers, and urged savers to contact its helpline if they had any queries and to explain all relevant details about their accounts.

Extra staff and telephone lines have been put in place to cope with the anticipated demand from customers.

The Halifax said customers might receive wrong information on whether they would be eligible or ineligible for its free share offer because all information had been keyed in manually, and the spelling of similar surnames, such as Green and Greene, could also mean

customers inadvertently got wrong details about their share status.

The Halifax is unable to say what proportion of savers might be affected by computer errors. Members of the Halifax, Woolwich and Northern Rock building societies had to top up their account balances by the close of business on Tuesday in order to qualify for a shareout on conversion.

Details sent to one reader of *The Times* in north London, who asked not to be named, contained an error regarding her share status as executor to her late aunt's estate. The woman and her aunt had savings accounts with Halifax. They were

eligible for both the basic and variable distribution of free shares when Halifax converted. However, in a letter to the woman, Halifax said her late aunt's account was an ordinary share one, and did not acknowledge that the money had been transferred into an executor account. The letter said she was only entitled to receive one allocation of free shares.

The woman contacted Halifax several times over a number of weeks but said the society was insistent that the information was correct. However, after contacting *The Times* about her predicament, the woman was then told an administrative

error had been made and she was entitled to two lots of free shares.

The distribution of free shares under the Halifax's proposed scheme will comprise a basic distribution to all qualifying members, employees and pensioners and a variable distribution to certain members, depending on account balances.

The basic distribution will be made to each investing member of the Halifax who held not less than £100 in share accounts and/or permanent interest bearing shares (Pibs) of the Halifax and/or the Leeds Permanent at midnight, November 25, 1994, and at the special general meeting in February, is at least £1,000.

Investing member of the Halifax (or before the merger, of the Leeds) continuously until conversion. It is also made to investing members who are eligible to vote on the conversion resolution.

The variable distribution will be made to those who qualify for the basic distribution as investing members, and who held shares continuously for the period of two years ending on the qualifying day for conversion. It will also be made to those whose lower total balance in a share account and/or Pibs at midnight, November 25, 1994, and at the special general meeting in February, is at least £1,000.

Tax and rates 'likely to rise after election'

BY PHILIP BASSETT AND JANET BUSH

TAXES and interest rates will have to rise in the early days of the new parliament, whichever party wins the election, according to the latest economic analysis by Cambridge Econometrics, the independent think-tank.

But, despite the prospect of having to make some unpopular and early political choices, Cambridge emphasised that the incoming Administration will take power at a more auspicious time than in either 1974 or 1979. It argues that there is little prospect of the type of speculative boom seen in the recent past and the pain of the associated fallout.

On taxes, Cambridge said that November's Budget had not fully addressed pressure on the Government's finan-

cial position. It said: "In order to reduce borrowing or finance spending or tax-cutting commitments, some tax increases are likely. Politically, the best time to introduce these is as early as possible after the election."

Cambridge noted that on the two occasions in the past 40 years when this has been the case, the economy was passing a cyclical peak, whereas the next government will be taking office at the peak of the current cycle.

It also pointed out that, on both occasions in the past, the incoming Labour administration had been forced to deal with the aftermath of a pre-election boom, which then led to a slowdown in growth and an upturn in employment. This time around, there is not likely to be an excessive boom because of the more cautious policy of the current Government.

Cambridge pointed out that every Labour government since the war has faced an economic crisis related to sterling and the balance of payments but that this time "there is little prospect that a current account crisis will blow the next government off course."

The forecast said: "In many respects, the economic environment facing the next government is better than has commonly been the case in the past." It noted that there is a reasonably benign international economic environment featuring low worldwide inflation.

A separate report published today by Oxford Economic Forecasting, however, highlights some potential risks to the world economy this year, reserving particular gloom for continental European economies.

Oxford said that the outlook for Europe remains dominated by the massive fiscal retrenchment necessary for countries to meet the Maastricht treaty convergence criteria, which means that growth on the Continent will remain below trend in 1997. Oxford predicts growth of 2 per cent compared with 1.4 per cent in 1996.

Against this background, it argues that most countries — including Germany — will struggle to get their deficits down to the Maastricht limit of 3 per cent of gross domestic product without further public financing "fiddles". Worries on this score are likely to provoke another round of interest rate cuts early in 1997 — still too little too late," it said.

Oxford concludes that the planned start of monetary union on January 1, 1999, is by no means a foregone conclusion.

Tesco funds for Mencap campaign

TESCO, Britain's largest supermarket group, will this month launch a campaign in support of Mencap, its choice for 1997 charity of the year (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Mencap, the charity for mentally handicapped children and adults and whose chairman is Lord Rix, has high hopes for the campaign. In previous years Tesco's staff have raised more than £1 million for the company's chosen charity.

Staff in more than 550 Tesco stores will this year focus their fund-raising on Mencap's Blue Sky appeal, which will help teams to work with people with learning disabilities and their families. Tesco's charity trust will add 20 per cent to the amount raised. A joint Mencap-Tesco logo will feature on 1.4 billion carrier bags.

While leaders of the Institute of Directors feel confident enough about their members' opposition to EMU to have

Business holds fire on single currency

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S business leaders are to hold back from taking a clear decision on the UK's participation in a European single currency until after a general election.

While the move puts the business organisations in line with the major political parties, it is likely to draw criticism from some business leaders, particularly those in largely non-exporting firms, who are opposed to economic and monetary union (EMU).

Business leaders are deeply divided over the single currency issue, with most poll evidence showing that, in the main, they are unsure whether it will be of benefit to Britain.

While leaders of the Institute of Directors feel confident enough about their members' opposition to EMU to have

US ruling offers hope for UK claims

BY CARL MORTISHED

A LANDMARK ruling in the US Tax Court in Washington could open the door to billions of dollars in claims for overpaid tax from British banks and other companies with branch operations in the United States.

The case concerned a Canadian life insurance company which successfully argued that the Internal Revenue Service had violated the US-Canada income tax treaty when it used a complex formula to assess the company's tax instead of the business's actual income.

According to Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan, the Washington law firm that acted for North West Life Assurance, the ruling is likely to affect a similar case being brought by National Westminster Bank, which is claiming \$180 million in back taxes. It also has implications for any other foreign company that operates as a branch, rather than as a separate incorporated subsidiary, in the United States.

A spokesman for the law firm said the two cases could end up in the US Supreme Court and had political implications: "The figures involved here are billions of dollars. This is an issue which will end up in the White House and in Downing Street."

The North West Life case centred around the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code, which requires that a branch report as its investment income the greater of its actual investment income or an amount determined by reference to the average investment income of US life insurance companies.

The average is calculated using two-year old data, said the spokesman.

Mid-sized businesses regain confidence

BY OUR ECONOMICS EDITOR

BRITAIN'S medium-sized businesses are expressing their most confidence since the last recession ended, but inflationary pressures, currently smouldering in the economy, are poised to take the shine off this optimism, a survey by Lloyds Commercial Service concludes.

The survey shows that many firms plan to increase investment and employment on the back of a recovery driven by strong domestic orders. But much of the confidence for strong profit growth is based on plans to raise prices.

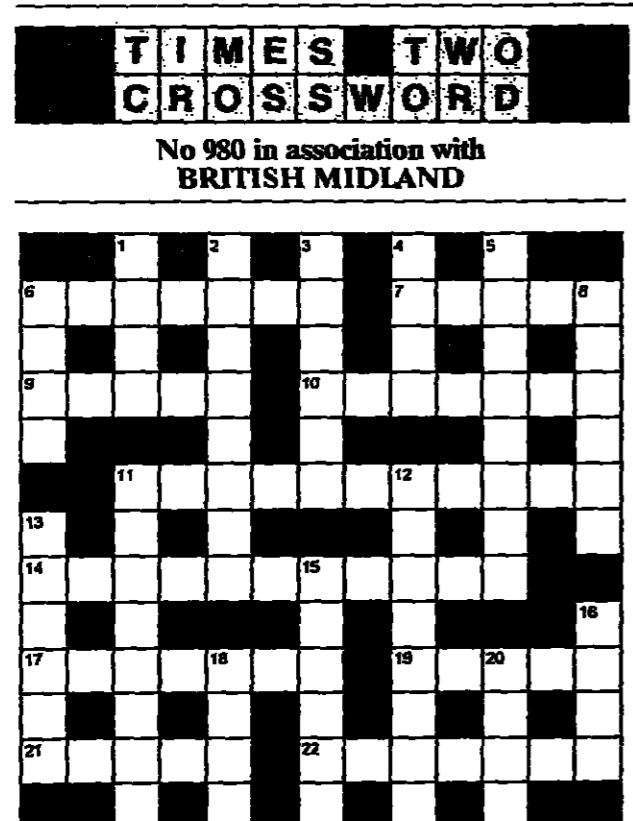
Michael Riding, Lloyds Bank's managing director of commercial banking, predicted that inflation and interest rates would rise in the first six months of this year and that this could dent confidence in the domestic market.

The survey, which analysed responses from 2,000 middle market businesses with turnovers of £1 million to £100 million, showed that profit growth accelerated strongly over the past six months in response to a significant upturn in business activity.

The upturn has been centred on service sector businesses, most notably transport and communications and hotels, catering and leisure.

Manufacturing has performed much more weakly. The strongest growth came in the South of England, with the Midlands, the North and Wales lagging behind.

The survey said smaller businesses — those with turnover of less than £2 million — continued to have a harder time than larger companies which have seen the strongest growth in sales and orders.



ACROSS
6 Easily damaged (7)
7 Vehicle immobiliser (5)
9 Franz — pianist/composer (5)
10 Glass-cased lamp (7)
11 Suck up (to) (5,6)
14 Poor reassurance (4,7)
17 Bear witness (7)
19 Cavalry sword (5)
21 Long (for) (5)
22 Dryness (7)

DOWN
1 " — teeth, — everything" (4,7)
2 Of memorable importance (8)
3 Miscellany (6)

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Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address _____

SOLUTION TO NO 979

ACROSS: 1 Left-handed 9 Amalgam 10 Rambo 11 Fate
12 Black Sea 14 Impair 15 Stroll 18 Butter up 20 Klin
22 Romeo 23 Science 24 Diligent

DOWN: 2 Edge 3 Tumble 4 Atrocity 5 Dumps 6 Drop a clanger 7 Half-dimbered 8 Laptop 13 Wiped out
16 Orient 17 Russia 19 Tamil 21 Mist



Lord Rix, left, at Tesco's Brent Cross store with Ray Jackson, manager, and Paula Peters

Business holds fire on single currency

BY PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

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While leaders of the Institute of Directors feel confident enough about their members' opposition to EMU to have

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